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পদকল্পতরু।

সম্পূর্ণ হইয়াছে

মূল্য ৩।০ টাকা।

পরিশিষ্ট যন্ত্রস্থ।

অমৃতবাজার পত্রিকা আফিসে প্রাপ্তব্য

অনুরাগবল্লী।

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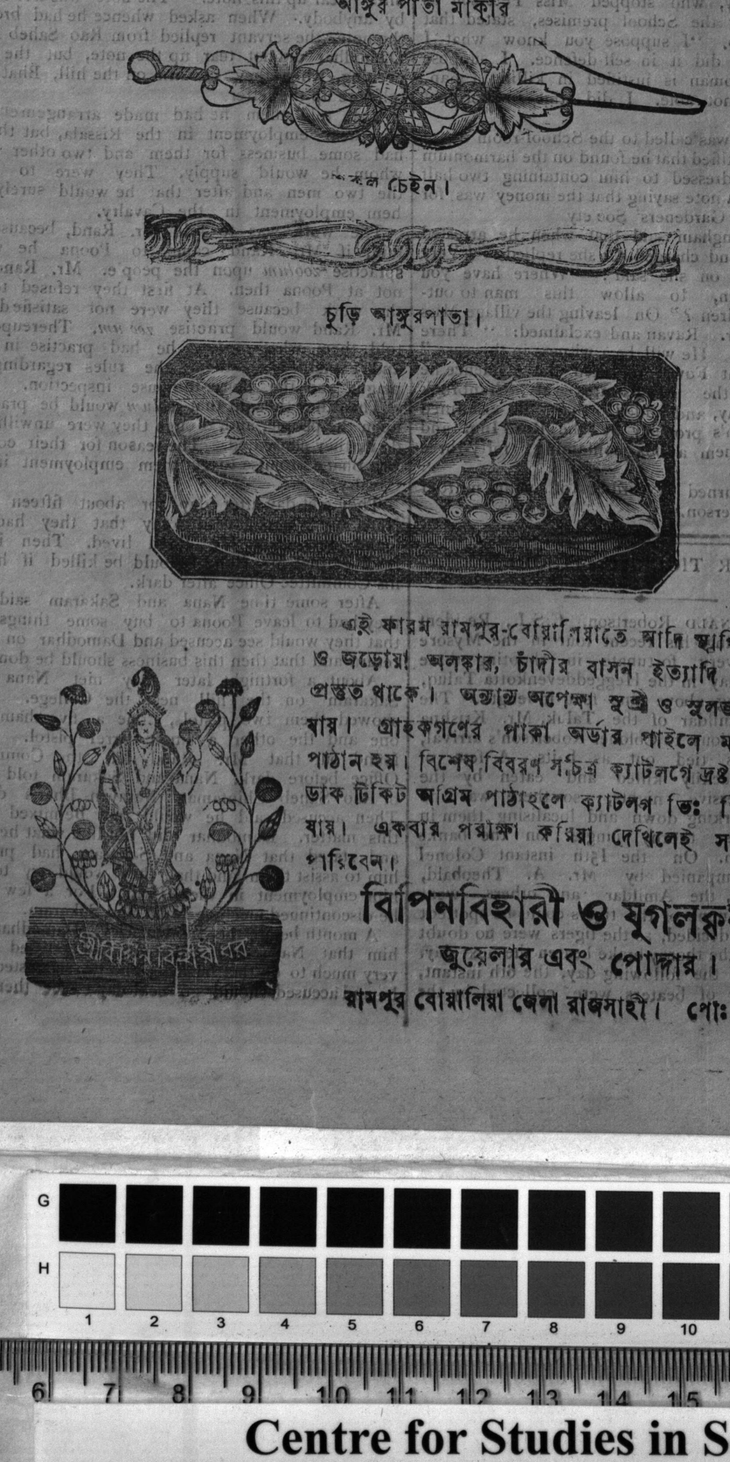

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SHOT BY HIS RECTOR'S DAUGHTER.

A TERRIBLE tragedy took place at Biddenden, a village ten miles from Ashford one Sunday, February 5th, when a man named Whibley was shot dead in the village school. There had been a quarrel of some standing between Whibley, who was formerly a Sunday school teacher and parish worker, and Miss Peterson, daughter of the rector (the Rev. W. Peterson,) and the previous day Whibley had received a letter from Miss Peterson asking for a reeonciliation. He agreed to this as well as to a further suggestion that he should attend service at the church and afterwards meet the lady at the school. When he reached the school he was met by the Rev. W. Raven and Miss Peterson and it is alleged that while his attention was being drawn to a picture by the lady she shot him behind the ear, killing him instantly. Mr. Raven gave the alarm, and Miss Peterson was at once secured by Mr N. Avery, who handed her over to the police.

She appeared when arrested to be quite unconcerned and regardless of the gravity of her position. At the service in the church she had played the harmonium, and subsequently received Sacrament proceeding from the church to the school-room to meet Whibley. She was only on a brief visit to the panish, her father being non-resident.

IN THE POLICE COURT.

At the Police Court at Cranbrook, the following day, Bertha D'Spaen Haggerston Peterson, aged 42 years, was charged with the murder of John Whibley at Biddenden. Mr. Jobson was the presiding Magistrate. Superintendent Fowle stated that at 1-15 on Sunday afternoon he took Miss Peterson into custody at the Cranbrook Police Station, and having been duly cautioned, she, replying to the chage, said: "I shot him." Witness then proceeded to Biddenden, and on entering the Infants' National School found the body of Mr. John Whbley lying on his back with the head towards the harmonium. He examined the body, and saw there was a wound at the back of the head, from which blood had flowed Witness asked for a remand and the case was adjourned for eight days. Miss Peterson, who was fashionably attired, with a pince-nez before her eyes, seemed wholly unconcerned, and betrayed no emotion whatever. When informed of the remand she said: "Thank you; is that all?" She was then removed to the cells, where she is said to have betrayed the same indifference. Miss Peterson is the matron of a Home in Surrey, and is stated to be somewhat eccentric. After her arrest she was driven to Cranbrook, but made no remark during the journey. On her arrival at the Police-station she informed the Superintendent that she had left her umbrella behind in the Church at Biddenden, and asked him to see to it for her. The Rev. W. Peterson, her father, is considerably over 80 years of age, and to infirm or active duty. Mr. Whibley, who was shot, was a native of Biddenden, and had lived there all his life, and was a reputable and respected resident. He had been, it is stated, much disquieted by his difference with the Rector and Miss Peterson, and was rejoiced by the prospect of reconcillation with the lady. His residence was within a stones throw of the school, the scene of his tragic end, and on calling in after the service he informed his wife that he should be away only a few minutes. The shot was heard by someone in Mr. Whibley's house, but no notice was taken of it.

THE INQUEST.

The Coroner's enquiry into the circumstances attending the death of Mr. Whibley was held on February 6th in the Village School-room at Biddenden.

Evidence of identification was given by the widow, who stated that her husband received a letter from Miss Peterson to the effect that she believed he had been greatly wronged, and that she was wrong in the attitude she had taken in the spring of 1897. Another letter was produced which Mrs. Whibley said was in Miss Peterson's writing, and this stated that her husband was generally thought to have committed an atrocious crime against God and against an innocent and defenceless member of Christ, a little girl. The writer asked whether Whibley was innocent of this crime, and how she could clear him, adding that she would spare neither time nor money. No exertion should be too great for her if he would tell her how to do it. Proceedings, the witness said that it was the suggestion in thie letter that her husband was asked to forgive. He was ready to do so, and went to the School to meet Miss Peterson as requested. Miss Peterson and her husband had not been on good terms.

The Rev. W. Raven deposed to meeting Mr. Whibley and Miss Peterson at the Infants' School. The lady gave him an envelope to open and examine, and asked Mr. Whibley to look at a picture of "The Good Shepherd" she was presenting to the School. While this was going on witness heard a report, and seeing Mr. Whibley fall immediately went for assistance.

Mr. Houghton, school master, stated that he ran out on hearing Mr. Raven call, and met Miss Peterson at the door with a revolver in her hand. She gave him the weapon, saying: "You may have it now." In answer to his question as to why she shot Mr. Whibley, she said: "I had to do so to protect little children." Afterward she said: "You don't seem to understand these revolvers. Will you let me have it back, and I will show you how to unload the other five chambers?"

Mr. W. Avery, who stopped Miss Peterson as she was leaving the School premises, stated that she said to him, "I suppose you know what I did this for; I did it in self-defence. I suppose you know a woman is justified in killing a man, but a child is not able. I did this to protect little children.

Dr. Bate, who was called to the School-room to see Mr. Whibley, testified that he found on the harmonium an envelope addressed to him containing two half sovereigns, and a note saying that the money was for the Forester's or Gardeners' Soc ety

Constable Mungham said that when he arrested Miss Peterson and charged her she replied: "Very well." Later on she said: "Where have you gentlemen been, to allow this man to outrage little children?" On leaving the village Miss Peterson saw Mr. Ravan and exclaimed: "There goes Mr. Raven. He will be a witness in this case."

Superintendent Fowle repeated the evidence he gave before the Magistrates at Cranbrook earlier in the day, and added that he examined Miss Peterson's property at the Rose Inn, and found among them a box containing forty-three cartridges.

The jury returned a verdict of wilful murder against Miss Peterson.

AFTER TIGER IN MYSORE.

COLONEL DONALD Robertson, C.S.I., Resident of Mysore, during his recent tour in the Mysore district, was very fortunate in shooting three tigers in one day in the Heggeddevenkotta Taluq, the largest being above nine feet in length. The indefatigable Amildar of the Taluk, Mr. Krishna Singh had, previous to Colonel Robertson's arrival, several buffaloes tied out as baits. A few of these were luckily killed and eaten by the tigers on successive nights, so there was no difficulty in marking down and localising them in a bit of dense thorny jungle on the banks of a dry stream. On the 15th instant Colonel Robertson accompanied by Mr. A. Theobald, the State shikari, the Amildar and others, went o the spot, but none of the tigers could be spotted It was therefore decided, as the tigers were no doubt gorged, to have the thorny brake beaten the next day. Accordingly, on the following day, the 6th instant, large number of beaters were collected by the Amildar, and after the Resident had taken up a favourable position on a low tree, the beat began with "tom-toms" "cholera horns" and shouting. For some time the tigers would not move, and fears were entertained that they had escaped the previous night, but suddenly the tigress, having spotted the Resident on the tree at once charged with loud "wough-woughs." Two well directed shots from the Reside 's rifle soon settled her score. Very soon after another tiger broke cover and offered a snap shot to the Resident, which broke its fore shoulder and tumbled him over, and before a second shot could be delivered it crawled back into a thicket. The beat was continued, but the wounded tiger lay close and would not move. It was getting late so the Resident had hardly descended the tree when news was brought to him that a third tiger was in a thick bush not far off. So he carefully stalked it and soon finished it with one shot. It was now discovered that there was a fourth tiger in the beat, but as it was getting dark, and the Resident had to get to camp eight miles away, it was decided to stop the beat. The two dead tigers were soon padded on the elephants and tracks made to camp. The following day the Resident had to leave for Hunsur, so the Amildar was asked to go to the scene of the previous day with some local shikaris and to recover, if possible, the wounded tiger. Accordingly he went and very soon found it badly wounded and hardly able to move, so a shot at a distance of a few feet soon settled matters. The Amildar then had a beat to see if there really was a fourth tiger, which turned out to be true, so after some trouble it too was shot. The four tiger skins are now with the Theobald Brothers Naturalists, and Faxidermists of Mysore, to be cured and mounted as rugs for Colonel Robertson.

MYSTERIES OF EMORYM.

PEOPLE are constantly being mystified at the pranks that memory plays them. Great minds have wrestled in vain to find an explanation for the mental eccentricities that sometimes trouble the sanest man.

The latest attempt in this direction has been made in America, where two hundred university students and professional persons have answered a series of questions bearing on the freaks of memory.

A strange phenomenon has come to light in the course of the inquiry. It has been discovered that by gazing steadily at a crystal consciousness is partly lost. Into the void thus produced those who have practised crystal gazing find that there enter, unbidden, forgotten incidents and lost memories.

To give a few instances : A lady in crystal gazing saw a bit of dark wall covered with white flowers. She was conscious she mus, have seen it somewhere, but had no recollection where. She walked over the ground she had just traversed and found the wall, which she had passed unnoticed.

She took out her bank-book another day. Shortly afterwards she was gazing at the crystal and saw nothing but the number one. She thought it was some back number, but taking up the bank-book found to her surprise it was the number of the account. At another time she destroyed letter without noting the address. She could only remember the town. After gazing at the crystal some time she saw, "321, Jefferson av." She addressed the letter there, adding the town, and found it was right.

Psychical research brings to light many cases of similar strange tricks of memory. It is easy to find instances that serve to deepen the mystery. It is not so easy to give an explanation. The cleverest men who have attemp ed to do so have had to admit defeat, and the solution of this strange mystery appears as far off as ever.

BALKRISHNA'S CONFESSION.

BALKRISHNA then stated that about two years ago, *i. e.*, about five months before Mr. Rand was murdered, his brother Damodhar and he went for a walk about 5 p. m. on a hill near Fergusson College, and while sitting there Chintaman Narayan Bhat came towards them and Damodhar said "Let us ask him how we can get employment in a regiment." Chintaman, having been asked the question, said he would try to manage it for them. They asked him to let them know if he was successful in obtaining employment for them and he said he would do so if they went to his house after fifteen days or a month or if they went for a walk on the same hill. They did not go to him after that. This conversation took place before Mr. Rand was appointed on plague duty at Poona. Seven or eight days before the meeting was held in the Technical School, Chintaman's servant came to their house in Sadashiva Peth with a note which he gave to his brother Damodhar. The contents of the note were "I want to speak to you about the Rissala. Come to see me this evening about 5 o'clock on the hill. Tear up this note." The note was not signed by anybody. When asked whence he had brought the note, the servant replied from Rao Saheb Bhat. Damodhar did not tear up the note, but the same evening, when they saw him on the hill, Bhat himself tore up the letter.

Bhat told them he had made arrangements to get them employment in the Rissala, but that he had some business for them and two other men, whom he would supply. They were to assist the two men and after that he would surely get hem employment in the Cavalry.

The work was to kill Mr. Rand, because, he taid, if Mr. Rand came to Poona he would practise *zoolum* upon the peop'e. Mr. Rand was not at Poona then. At first they refused to do the work because they were not satisfied that Mr. Rand would practise *zoolum*. Thereupon he told them what *zoolum* he had practise in Wai, and explained to them the rules regarding the plague and the house-to-house inspection.

Then they thought that *zoolum* would be practised upon the people, and, though they were unwilling to do it, they consented. The reason for their consent was Bhat's promise to get them employment in the Cavalry.

They met day after day for about fifteen days. Nana and Sakaram used to say that they had not found out where Mr Raud lived. Then it was resolved that Mr. Rand should be killed if he left his Committee Office after dark.

After some time Nana and Sakaram said that they had to leave Poona to buy some things and that they would see accused and Damodhar on their return and that then this business should be done.

About a fortnight later they met Nana and Sakaram on the hill near the College. Nana showed them two pistols, one a five-chambered one and the other a single-barrel pistol. They found out that Mr. Rand left the Committee Office before dark. Nana and Sakaram told them of Rao Saheb Chintaman Narayen Bhat's death. Then accused said he would not be mixed up in this matter. Damodhar did not like what he said and stated that Nana and Sakaram had pressed him to assist them and that they would try to get him employment in the Rissala. For a few days he discontinued meeting Nana and Sakaram.

A month before the Jubilee Day, Damodhar told him that Nana and Sakaram had pressed them very much to do this business and he suggested that he and accused should go next day t see them on the hill. Accordingly they went and saw them. Nana gave Damodhar a Marathi newspaper to read. Nana read some of the paper referring to the *zolum* practised by Mr. Rand.

Then Nana said that he had found out a place to kill Mr. Rand in and he asked them to go and see it. Then accused asked Nana how he was to be killed. He said he would be shot from behind when he was left in his carriage. Accused then said: "In that case you should first ascertain, by stopping him, if he is the person you want to kill." Nana replied "Very well."

Then for two or three days they went to his playground in the Cantonment. Damodhar and he used to go from the town and meet Nana and Sakaram there. On the third or fourth occasion they saw Mr. Rand. They followed him from the play-ground, When they came near a garden, in which accused afterwards came to know his bungalow was situated, Nana raised his pistol to shoot Mr. Rand. Accused seized his arm, fearing he would shoot the wrong man and said "I will go near him and stop him. Let us first ascertain who he is and then shoot him." He went to stop Mr. Rand, but meanwhile he had entered the compound. When he went near the gate, he saw a carriage, with big horses, coming out of it; so he did not go in. Then the four went together as far as Someshwar, where Damodhar and Balkrishna went into the temple and Nana and Sakaram went away. Then for a month everything was quiet. Then Damodhar told him that Balkrishna had seen Nana and Sakaram and would go to meet them next day on the hill. Accordingly Damodhar and Balkrishna went to meet them. Damodhar and the others had some conversation about the Jubilee. Nana and Sakaram asked his brother if he would meet them at Government House. Balkrishna tried to persuade him not to go. He paid no attention to what he said, but agreed to go. On the way home Nana asked Damodhar what he would carry in his hand. Damodhar said they would go with sticks. Nana said that he had two swords which he would bring if they were wanted.

Two or three days later Damodhar told him that the Europeans were going to Government House on the night of the Jubilee and that they would get an opportunity to do the work. Nana had told them to meet him at Government House between 2 and 3 p. m. He was not inclined to go and he did not go. Then Damodhar told him that they had to go there on the night of the Jubilee. On that night they left home, each of them carrying a sword wrapped in a white turban. They waited till about 8-30 p. m. Nana and Sakaram did not come. Then Damodhar walked towards Government House, leaving him at the culvert. After about half an hour Nana and Damodhar came and Nana told him that Mr. Rand had come without a sowar. He said that there would be no time to warn him and then kill him and so it could not be done as he wished. Then Damodhar and he both said that, as there was a difference of opinion, they would go. Nana said they might go. They had placed the swords under the culvert. They told Nana to take care of the swords and Damodhar and he went away by a short cut to Chatura Shiwje. When they had walked some distance they saw some fireworks. When they came near the Fergusson College, Damodhar said that he had a pistol shot. They both had some discussion about it because Balkrishna said it was very difficult to distinguish between the report of a pistol and of fireworks. They went into the town. He (Damodhar) went into the Someshwar Temple and then home. Next morning they went to the hill to meet Nana and Sakaram. They waited there but they did not come. On their way back they saw them in a mango grove. Nana told them that he had fired at two carriages, but he did not know who had been killed and was not sure if any body was killed or not. Then he asked if Damodhar if he could keep two guns which he had. Damodhar said that he wanted to throw away some of the weapons he had. Then Nana suggested that Damodhar should throw away both his own and Nana's weapons at the same place. Subsequently it was arranged that the weapons should be thrown into a well belonging to one Londhe.

Eventually Balkrishna went into Londhe's compound and took the guns over the wall from Nana and Sakaram, who were outside. Damodhar tied all the weapons together and lowered them with a rope into the well.

On the following day Damodar, he, and all the family left Poona for Bombay. Balkrishna saw Nana and Sakaram at Lanouli. They left the train at Kalyan. About three months later Damodhar was arrested and three or four days later, in consequence of information received from a man named Narayen, Balkrishna went to Nassik, from Nassik to Bhusawal and thence via Munmar and Dhond, to Gadak. He left the train at Copal station and went thence to Anigondi, where he stayed on the mountains. His brother Wasdeo accompanied him to Anigondi.

Ultimately he started for Goa. On his way he saw a Mahomedan sowar, who told him that a man from British territory had come into the Nizam's territory and so great *zoolum* was practised on the ryots. He, therefore, went and surrendered to Mr. Stephens at Mandaheri.

Nana had a hatchet on Jubilee night.

FRONTIER OPERATIONS.

A MOST successful surprise attack on the Chamkannis was effected by a mixed force of the 22nd Punjab Infantry and the Kurram Militia on Wednesday night under the command of Captain Roos Keppel, the officer on special duty in the Kurram. Over one hundred persons and about three thousand head of cattle were captured, and nine villages destroyed. Two Turi lashkars, of a total strength of five hundred, turned out to help us. Our casualties were two wounded, while the Chamkannis had eight killed. Owing to the entire success of the surprise, there was scarcely any fighting.

FURTHER advices from Parachinar state that the raid on the 1st instant, which had been arranged in detail by Captain Roos Kepple, was kept entirely secret up till the last moment. The troops were only warned one our before, and had to march. A force, consisting of 200 Rifles of the 22nd Punjab Infantry, under Lieutenant Davis and Graham, and 400 rifles of the Kurram Militia, under their Commandant and Adjutant, the whole under the command of Captain Roos Keppel, left Parachinnar at 10 P. M, and crossed the border about midnight reaching the first Chamkanni village at 5 A. M. Every detail of the plan worked out exactly with the greatest success by good lack. The 22nd Punjab Infantry took up a position covering the first two Chamkanni villages, and the Kurram Militia passed them totally unperceived by the enemy. The Kurram Militia then went on three miles, then surrounded three other large villages, while the 22nd Punjab Infantry waited attacks, then made simultaneously. The surprise was complete, the enemy offerin scarcely any resistance. Only a few shotg were fired. The force recrossed the bordes about 11 A. M. The enemy was so disheartened that no attempt was made to follow up the retreat.

Centre for Studies in Social Sciences, Calcutta

THE
Amrita Bazar Patrika

CALCUTTA, MARCH 9, 1899.

MUNICIPAL BILL DEBATE IN PARLIAMENT.

It was known here long ago that, one of the amendments to the Queen's speech would relate to the revolutionary character of the Calcutta Municipal Bill; but the question, which required some thought, was,—who was to be entrusted with this important charge? Sir William Wedderburn as leader of the Indian Parliamentary party, was, of course, the fittest person to do it; but there was not much love lost between him and Lord George Hamilton; so the choice naturally fell upon Mr. Herbert Roberts, who had already made an excellent impression upon the House by his speeches on the Sedition Bill and other important Indian questions. Mr. Roberts had able co-adjutors in Mr. Caine and Mr. R. C. Dutt, and it was expected—and the expectation has been more than fulfilled—that he would be able to put the case properly and impressively before the members and secure the sympathy and support of the Liberals and disarm the opposition of the Tory party.

Immediately before the debate took place, a small pamphlet of four pages, containing the testimony of the good work done by the Calcutta Municipality during the last 22 years, was circulated for the information of Members of Parliament. A copy of this pamphlet or rather leaflet was sent to each member of the House. From a mere glance at it, every member was able to find out the following facts:—

(1) Official Municipal Commissioners *appointed* in Calcutta by Government in 1856, *failed*. (2) Justices of the Peace, composed of officials and non-officials, *appointed* by Government, *failed*. (3) The elective system was then introduced in 1876 as a remedy, and successive Lieutenant-Governors bore testimony to the excellent work done by the *elected* Commissioners. Amongst others, the favourable opinions of Sir Steuart Bailey, Sir Antony MacDonnell and Sir John Woodburn were quoted. (4) The nature of the proposal made in the present Municipal Bill to destroy self-government after 22 years of success.

It was next arranged that a member, who could speak from personal experience, should second Mr. Roberts' amendment, and Mr. Robinson Souttar who had been in Calcutta for many years, and who was the brother of a late Chairman, was chosen for the purpose. Needless to say that Mr. Souttar did his part very well.

A non-party man like Mr. McKenna was selected to speak next. The declared friends of the Congress like Mr. Harwood and Mr. Schwann were to follow, supporting Mr. Souttar, and Sir William Wedderburn was to speak last.

The above was the arrangement made to carry on the debate in the House of Commons.

Nobody yet knew positively whether Sir Henry Fowler would take any active part in the debate or not, though it was pretty generally known that he would not side with Lord George Hamilton in this matter. So, no part was assigned to him. He, therefore, took his party with agreeable surprise when he rose to support the amendment.

He spoke, it will be seen, with great fervour and dispelled the notion, formde about him even by his personal friends, that he had lost all his Liberal instincts and that his business was only to ditto whatever fell from the lips of Lord George Hamilton. The speech of Sir Henry produced a very sobering effect upon the Indian Secretary of State, who began with the admission, unusual with him, that the Liberal members who had spoken "had done so in a tone of great moderation."

Sir William Wedderburn now came forward to say his say, and, as expected, was sought to be interrupted by Lord George Hamilton and his party. But the dignified way in which he spoke silenced his detractors; and when he sat down, Mr. Roberts rose to declare that the course of debate did not justify him in pressing the amendment to a division, and he would, therefore, withdraw it, hoping that the Bill would be modified in the way suggested by him and those who had supported him.

The significance of the debate cannot be over-estimated. Its effect both upon the official and non-official classes in India is bound to be most wholesome. Those who brought about the debate had not the least intention of quarrelling with or irritating Lord George Hamilton, and the latter though he could not avoid having a fling at Sir William Wedderburn and his party, as is his wont, was, on the whole, conciliatory in his tone. Instructions were sent to our friends in England, who have been so nobly fighting the cause of India, not to push the debate to its bitter end. It is gratifying to note that the wishes of the Indians in this direction were respected, and Mr. Roberts was pleased to withdraw his amendment after the subject had been thoroughly discussed for more than three hours in the House.

If a division had been sought the amendment would have been, as a matter of course, lost, and all hope of raising a fresh debate in future would have had to be given up. Nor is this all. It would have shown want of confidence in Lord Curzon, and might have possibly left him no option but to cast in his lot with the opponents of the Bill. The result of the debate has, however, left His Excellency absolutely free to deal with the question with an open and impartial mind, and this in itself is a great gain.

The other important gain is the recovery of Sir Henry Fowler who was not only lost to India but who had turned an enemy to all Indian progress. There is yet hope for India when Providence has given us back Sir Henry Fowler whose great influence, either for good or evil, is recognized both by his friends and enemies. Those who are agitating against the Municipal Bill ought to be greatly encouraged by the result of the debate.

LADY DUFFERIN FUND.

The institution, established by Lady Dufferin, has flourished because the rulers here are not in touch with the people and do not know the real requirements of the latter; because it has been patronised by successive Viceroys; and because, it has given some occupation to the wives of Viceroys, who have nothing to do in this country. It originated in the desire of Lady Dufferin to leave some permanent memorial behind her. It was based upon the fiction that *purdanashin* ladies here are not allowed by their husbands to be treated by male doctors. The fiction remains undiscovered, because the rulers have no actual knowledge of the condition of the people.

It is quite true what the Viceroy says, that it is now "a gigantic organization." But would any one have subscribed a pice to it if it had not been patronized by Viceroys? Money is not plentiful in India, and even where it is plentiful, the possessors do not throw it away upon institutions, based upon fiction. We are sorry for Lady Curzon. It is quite true Her Excellency has got some work, and presumably good work, to occupy her attention. But the thing is, from beginning to end, a farce, pure and simple.

All of us know that most of the donations were made after pressure had been put on the donors—pressure from high; but we do not complain, for the motive was good. As a matter of fact, a fairly large amount of money has been collected. We are glad that such a large fund has been created for the benefit of sick humanity. But are we to carry on this farce for ever, or to give a better direction to resources now placed in the hands of responsible authorities?

In the name of everything sacred let this fund be utilized properly, and let us have an end of these farcical meetings, in respect of an institution, established for the removal of evils which do not exist. Lord Curzon claimed for the Europeans that, they had brought to this country a scientific medical system for the benefit of the people. That is all true. But how many are there in India who derive any benefit from it? Mr. Kipling contends that the white men "bid the sickness to cease." But it is surely not done in India. Disease is rampant, but there are none in this vast country to bid the sickness to cease.

We are told that there are three hundred millions here in this country. There is no doubt of it, that two-thirds of this population get no medical aid at all. They fall sick, and if Nature does not cure them, they, of course, die. Whoever heard of a poor man, living outside the few towns, receiving any medical aid from the science imported from Europe? Yet we have the Lady Dufferin Institution which is "a vast organization".

If Lady Curzon wants a very good occupation, let Her Excellency properly utilize the fund, that Providence has placed at her disposal, *Purdanashin* ladies are not in need of any special assistance, nor are poor men in towns. But let the poor in the interior, male and female, have some medical relief. Let the fund do that great and useful work, and surely God will bless her ladyship.

The most practical speech, made on the occasion of the meeting, was the one made by His Highness the Maharaja of Durbhanga. His Highness did not choose to disclose all, But from the tone of his observations one can see, at a glance, that he has no particular faith in the usefulness of the institution. Of course, we are not going to formulate any scheme of our own, but we can try to put the matter in its true light.

Let us summarize: (1) Women in Indian towns, whether poor or wealthy, are not in need of any special arrangement for medical relief. (2) Vast myriads of people in the interior of India get no medical relief whatsoever. And (3) Lady Curzon has a large fund at her disposal, for the purpose of affording medical help to humanity.

The representation which the British Indian Association has just submitted to the Government of Bengal on the Calcutta Municipal Bill leaves no room for doubt as to its real position with regard to this important measure. The communication is one of the ablest documents that have hitherto been addressed to the Government on the subject. It is now plain to the meanest comprehension that the principle of the Bill is as much repugnant to the notions of the Association as are its details, and that, in the opinion of the Association, Government has no justification whatever for constituting the General Committee in the way provided for in the Bill. The Association strengthens its position by bringing forward facts which cannot be disputed, and opinions that cannot be ignored. For instance, Hindus and Mussalmans pay more than thirty-three lakhs, while Europeans, Eurasians, Armenians, Jews, etc, as well as the Government, the Port Commissioners and the Corporation pay a little over sixteen lakhs of Rupees as taxes to the Calcutta Corporation. That is to say, Hindus and Mahomedans contribute to the Municipal exchequer more than twice as much as the joint contribution of the Government, the Corporation, the Port Trust, the Europeans, etc. put together. Judged by the test of taxation, therefore, the Government, the Port Trust and the European races are entitled to *less than four seats* on the General Committee and the Indian community to *more than eight seats*. Similarly, the Association points out that, when Sir Richard Temple conferred the boon of the elective system, he was prepared to give the citizens the privilege of electing three-fourths of the Commissioners provided they undertook to elect a certain number of Europeans. But, as such an undertaking could not be taken from the rate-payers, Sir Richard proposed that Government would be quite satisfied if it had the power of appointing one-third of the Commissioners, so that it might appoint Europeans when they happened not to be elected in a sufficient number. The B. I. Association urges that this principle, which applies to the whole Corporation, ought to apply to the General Committee also. So, from whatever point you may view the matter, the proposed General Committee does not stand the test of reason and justice; and that as Government cannot afford to be unjust and unreasonable, out of the 12 members, *at least* 8 should be Indians, and 4 Europeans and official nominees.

Now that there is no longer any difference between the members of the B. I. Association and the promoters of the present agitation against the Municipal Bill, either with regard to its principle or its details, they should join hands and bring about the proposed Town Hall meeting. Such a demonstration will greatly strengthen the hands of our friends in England. What Mr. Herbert Roberts proposed in Parliament and what the Liberals to a man accepted was that a Commission of Enquiry should be appointed to examine whether there was any necessity at all for the revolutionary change contemplated by the Bill. What the promoters of the proposed Town Hall meeting have got to do is to make a similar prayer to Lord Curzon. No criminal is punished without a hearing. Why should a different rule be adopted in the case of the Calcutta Corporation? The B. I. Association should be the first in the field to demand the appointment of such a Commission.

A VICEROY WITH AN INDEPENDENT MIND.

The *Times* congratulates India on having "again" got a Viceroy who can think for himself! Who is the other? We don't see any, unless he be Lord Ripon, who first introduced the principle of local self-government in India. There was also no doubt about the independence of Lord Northbrook, who refused to carry out mandates and had, therefore, to resign. Lord Salisbury, as Secretary of State for India, wanted him to create a pretext for fighting with the Ameer. This he refused to do and had to resign. He was followed by Lord Lytton who proved agreeable to Lord Salisbury. Viceroys with independent minds are not as plentiful as blackberries, neither do we think the *Times* would be over-pleased if India were blessed with such a class of Viceroys.

But do they want such Viceroys? They want nothing of the kind. They do not want reform, nor any inquiry. When the Welby Commission was appointed, Sir Henry Fowler took good care to see that the members would not go beyond the barrier laid down by him. No inquiry,—is the principle which guides the Service from the lowest official up to the Secretary of State. What the Indians have been seeking ever since they found Advocates in Parliament, is an enquiry, while the other side has been trying to burke it with all their might. When the Welby Commission was appointed, our friends in Parliament tried their best to extend the scope of enquiry, but they, of course, failed.

Now, one can understand what this means. The non-officials, that is to say, the disinterested party hold the opinion that the present method is leading the country to ruin, and ought, therefore, to be changed. But the interested party, who hold power, will never permit it, as any change in the proper direction will mean loss to them. So what the former desire is to lay all the facts before the English people. They think that an enquiry will shew that the present methods are leading the country to ruin, and that if the English people came to know of it they would at once do away with them and introduce a better system.

The interested party know this also very well that an enquiry will shew that the Empire is on the road to ruin, and therefore they do not permit it. Any talk of enquiry gives them a tertian ague and any attempt in that direction is opposed by them with all their might. Only talk of an enquiry and you will see the result. "We want an inquiry and nothing more." "As rational beings it is but reasonable to examine where we are." All these have been urged times out of number by the disinterested and non-official party. But such a proposal has ever been met with the cries of "help, murder," from the *Times* down to the pettiest official Anglo-Indian paper here!

The class represented by the *Times* want the continuance of the present method of administration though they all know that it is rotten and is leading the Empire to ruin. And therefore they neither want an enquiry nor a Viceroy with an independent mind. A Viceroy from his position can see, without a Commission of Enquiry, that the methods that obtain now are faulty all along the line. An unpatriotic and weak Viceroy, seeing all this, thinks that this is no business of his; he draws his pay and at last retires amidst the plaudits of the *Times* and its party. But an independent and patriotic Viceroy, if he sees that the system is rotten to the core, is likely to risk the displeasure of the *Times* rather than leave things in their present position.

Let us now see what we are aiming at. We have at last got a truly able man for our Viceroy—both able and patriotic. Of course, we have been proclaiming him, taking His Excellency at his word, and also judging him therefrom, to be an ardent friend. We hope Heaven will not disappoint us in our estimate of the latter part of his character, namely, that he is a friend. However, it is not of much moment whether he is a friend a not; it is enough, if he is able and patriotic. If he is able and patriotic and if he sees that the methods are faulty all along the line and that the Empire is day by day going to ruin, he will not leave things, as his weak predecessors had done, as they are, but make a gigantic effort to place the administration on a more healthy basis.

Goldsmith said of Burke that he gave to party what belonged to humanity. Hitherto Viceroys have served the Service; let Lord Curzon serve the Empire,—India and England. The idea prevails among the classes, which are led by Lord George Hamilton, that the difficulty of the Indians is the British Government and that they are ceaselessly trying to get rid of it, and hence his Lordship's dictum that he will do nothing which will weaken British rule in India. But the facts are otherwise. The British Empire in India is not so much a difficulty with the Indians as with the English. The British Empire in India is, of course, in some respects, a disadvantage to the people of this country, but it is also a blessing; and if the advantages and shortcomings are weighed, the Indians would yet have the Empire in spite of its shortcomings.

But the British Empire in India is almost an unmitigated curse to England. At a moment of infatuation the English people were led by greed of land to acquire the Empire of India. Now this Empire has become the greatest difficulty of England; the difficulty in which England finds itself by acquiring this Empire is almost inextricable.

It is a great work to make this Empire an advantage to both England and India, and that work is possible. That such a noble work was never attempted before is due to the fact that only mediocores used formerly to be sent out to rule India. Now that an able man has been entrusted with the charge of affairs, the Viceroy should make an attempt to base the Empire upon a principle of mutual advantage. At present England, as a country, derives little advantage from its connection with India. If Lord Curzon can effect the reform, his name will go down to posterity as the greatest of English statesmen and the greatest of benefactors, not only to his country but to humanity in general. His Lordship, by a sympathetic and beneficent rule, can make his five years' stay in India, a period of joy to the people. But his successor may spoil all that. We want something substantial. Let not his Lordship trouble himself with the details of the administration, but let him try to establish it upon a broader and firmer basis. In short, let him give us a constitution. We shall, by and by, submit to his Lordship proposals by which this could be done.

At the last Bombay Council meeting, the the Local Government found itself in an awkward position in reference to a question about the case of Mr. Sohoni, Assistant master of the Satara High School. Mr. Sohoni, it will be remembered, was roughly treated by a European plague officer, Mr. Rowcroft, because he failed to *salam* him. The incident naturally created a good deal of noise here and in England and a question was put in Parliament. This led the Bombay Government to give a vague reply to the representation of the aggrieved party, namely, that the matter had been adequately dealt with. The Hon'ble Mr. Khare wanted to clear the point by putting the following question to the Bombay Government:—

Is it a fact that Government, in reply to a petition from Mr. V. H. Sohoni, Assistant Master, Satara High School, in connection with his complaint against Mr. Rowcroft laid on the 10th of January, 1899, stated that they had dealt adequately with the matter?

If so, will Government be pleased to state what has been actually done in the matter?

Will Government be pleased to place on the table papers relating to this case, including those which show how Government have dealt with Mr. Rowcroft?

His Excellency, the President, apparently did not know what to say; so he sought to conceal his real meaning under a cloud of words. Here is the reply.—

Government must decline to enter into the circumstances to which the question relates as in so far as the incident was not merely one for departmental discipline in reference to the two persons concerned, both of whom are Government officers, it is or may be the subject of judicial proceedings. It is not usual or expedient to lay on the table papers relating to a departmental inquiry into the conduct of public servants.

The more straightforward course for the Government was to say that they had no reply to give; and hon'ble members should not bother them about the matter. What an edifying spectacle! A European official assaults a brother Indian official, and when the aggrieved party seeks redress from the Government he serves, the latter throws him overboard and takes the aggressor, because his skin is white, under its protection! And the rulers wonder that there should be discontent among the Indians!

In the *Englishman's* account of the Mohanpur Tea garden case, two points in favour of the accused were prominently set forth. The first was, that the revolver went off because the busti people had struck him on the arm; and the second was, that there was a dispute about the proprietorship of the land. A correspondent from Hailakandi wired to us contradicting the statement of the *Englishman*. We quote the following from his telegram:

The *Englishman's* version that Mr. Ross's revolver went off while the *busti* people struck him on the arm is inaccurate as his letter to the Magistrate was to the effect that he had drawn out his revolver and believed that one man had been shot. The *Englishman's* statement that there is a dispute about the land is also inaccurate. The land belongs to the *busti* people.

Since then, we have been furnished with a copy of the letter addressed by Mr. Ross to the Sub-divisional Officer:—

MOHANPUR, FEB. 7, 1899.

To

J. F. Graham Esq.
Sub divisional Officer, Hailkandi.

SIR,—I beg to inform you that at about 12 o'clock to-day, I with some of my choukidars captured two Bengalees stealing bamboos in Garden-land. There were very many more who ran away. But as we were bringing them through the jungle towards the garden, we were attacked by those who had previously run away and myself and three of my people were beaten.

There were about 40 of them attacking us and I drew my revolver and I believe one man has been shot. Kindly send a responsible officer to investigate the case or if possible or convenient to you, I would be greatly obliged if you could come yourself

I remain, Sir,
Yours faithfully
J. NORMAN ROSS.

It will thus be seen that there is no mention of the revolver having accidentally gone off or of any dispute about the land. Here is the letter of our correspondent, which is dated, Hailakandi, March 1:—

In continuation of my former letter to you about the Mohanpur murder case, I beg to inform you that the police have sent up the accused Mr. Ross under Sections 304,325 and 324 I. P. C. and the bustee people under Section 148 I. P. C. Captain Herbert, Deputy Commissioner of Cachar, has come here to try these cases. The bustee people were so long under an impression that the cases should be tried at Silchar or Calcutta as the Sub-divisional officer of Hailakandi is no Justice of the Peace. It was only last evening that the bustee people were informed that their case was to be taken to-day, the 1st March. Astonished at the short notice they have got to instruct a pleader properly they have applied for some time to engage and instruct a competent pleader. They have further prayed that they are very poor people and that considering the gravity of the case the Deputy Commissioner might be pleased to order the Government pleader to conduct it. Captain Herbert has, however, refused both their prayers. He has granted only oneday but this is too short a time to get through such a big and important case. The land where the occurrence took place has been found to be the land of the bustee people The bustee people say that they could not come to pleaders at Hailakandi as they were not sure whether the case would be taken up there and moreover they did not know what turn their case had taken, for, after an enquiry for about 5 or 6 days, they did not know whether the police would send up their case or not.

As the reader is aware, the cases have since been adjourned to the 21st instant, and ordered to be heard at Silchar.

The public owe their thanks to Babu Sree Nath Dass, the distinguished Vakeel of the High Court, not only for having lent his spacious house for the use of a public meeting to protest against the Municipal Bill last Sunday, but also for having decorated it in a beautiful manner and made an excellent arrangement for the comfort of those who attended it. The meeting was a great success, the attendance being very large and the speeches exceptionally good. We think the citizens have done all that they could do, to let their rulers know that the Bill is obnoxious to them, and that mainly because it seeks the destruction of the principle of self-government. Parliamentary proceedings in this connection were also managed, by our friends in England, with great discretion and judgment. Indeed, for the first time, the spectacle was seen of Lord George Hamilton standing alone to say, what he could, on behalf of the Bill. The matter was made so very plain to the House by the members, who successively spoke on the subject, that the supporters of Lord Hamilton found that they were without legs to stand upon, so none of them stood up to utter a word of support. The entire agitation in regard to this matter, from beginning to end, has been conducted with great moderation and judgment; and the country must mainly thank Raja Benoy Krishna for this. Raja Benoy Krishna, it ought to be remembered, has a sacred duty

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to perform in this connection. In the account, given the other day, of the origin and growth of local self-government here, one fact ought to have been mentioned. The agitation carried on in this city, for the privilege of the elective principle, was conducted under the auspices of the illustrious father of Raja Benoy Krishna, the late Maharaja Kamal Krishna Bahadur. Maharaja Kamal Krishna was the leader of the party which worked for the elective principle, and his son, therefore, has thought it a sacred duty to do his best to see that the privilege is not withdrawn.

WE are glad to learn that Government has at last been moved to take some definite step for the protection of indigenous sugar—an industry which was threatened with destruction by bounty-fed sugar from Europe. It must be borne in mind that the Government had no knowledge of the havoc that bounty-fed sugar was committing in this country. It was we who first brought this to the notice of the authorities about 4 months ago; so you see a native newspaper is not an unmitigated nuisance. We have received the following *communique* from the Government :—"It has been decided to undertake legislation giving authority to the Government of India to impose on bounty-fed sugar imported into India, in addition to the duty provided by Entry 8, Schedule IV of the Indian Tariff Act, 1894, a further duty equal to the net amount of the bounty paid on such sugar. A Bill following the general lines of Section 5 of the United States Act of 24th July 1897 imposing countervailing duties on bounty-aided imports will accordingly be introduced into the Legislative Council on the 10th March 1899." On the 21st ultimo we wrote :—

As in India, so in America, the bounty-fed sugar from the German Empire, has seriously told upon the local sugar industry. But having no other interests except their own to take care of, the Americans have disposed of the matter in a business-like way. They have got over the difficulty by levying a countervailing duty on sugar imports. They have not stopped here—they have just started the American Beet Sugar Company with a capital of $20,000 000. The net result of all this is that the German share of the American market has fallen from one-half to eleven per cent. which means that the American industry has gained no less than 39 per cent. America has, thus, clearly and unmistakably shewn the way India should take in this connection. This attitude of the Americans has already created consternation in Germany, and has led some German statesmen to come forward and openly condemn the bounty system. Indeed, Germany seems tired of taxing her own subjects in order to supply others with cheap sugar. The fact is, India should strike the iron while it is hot, and both her Government and her manufacturers should not delay in emulating the example of America.

It will be seen that the Government scheme exactly tallies with what we submitted.

WE said yesterday that the Lady Dufferin's Fund, which, to quote the words of His Excellency the Viceroy, has grown into "a gigantic organization," ought to be diverted to purposes which are really useful. We indicated the way in which it might be utilized ; and it affords us much pleasure to find that in this respect, we are at one with His Highness the Maharaja of Durbhanga, whose excellent and practical speech on the subject is published in another column. Now to the point. When we say that millions of people in the interior of the country receive no medical help whatever we do not draw upon our imagination. If the Viceroy will open page 336 of the Bengal Administration Report for 1897 98, which has just been issued to the press His Excellency will find the following facts : There are fifteen public dispensaries and hospitals in the Calcutta Municipality, namely, (1) Medical College Hospital ; (2) Eden Hospital ; (3) Ezra Hospital ; (4) Shama Charan Law Hospital ; (5) Presidency General Hospital ; (6) Campbell Hospital ; (7) Police Hospital ; (8) Mayo Native Hospital ; (9) Chandney Hospital ; (10) Park Street Dispensary ; (11) Chitpur Dispensary ; (12) Sukea Street Dispensary ; (13) South Suburban Hospital ; (14) Bhowanipur Dispensary ; (15) Dufferin Victoria Hospital. That is to say, there are fifteen public hospitals to afford medical relief among a population of seven lakhs. Besides, there are hundreds of medical practitioners in the town whose services can be had for Rs. 2 per visit and who are more frequently resorted to than the public hospitals. From the official figures before us we find that the total number of patients treated in the Calcutta hospitals in 1897 was only 276,152, that is to say, even one-third of the population of the town did not avail of these charitable institutions. As a matter of fact, excepting those who are very poor, no one would like to go to a public hospital for treatment.

TURN we now to the state of affairs in the interior of the country. If his Excellency will refer to page 341 of the same Bengal Administration Report, he will find the following table :

DIVISION.	Population.	Number of dispensaries.	Number of people to each dispensary
1	2	3	
Burdwan	... 7,688,818	55	139,796
Presidency	... 7,853,566	67	117,217
Rajshahi	... 8,019,187	74	108,367
Daoca	... 9,844,127	85	115,813
Chittagong	... 4,190,081	41	102,197
Patna	... 15,811,014	63	250,968
Bhagalpur	... 8,582,490	40	214,562
Orissa	... 4,047,352	34	119,039
Chota Nagpur	4,628,792	20	231,439
	70,665,427	479	147,526

So, while there are 15 public dispensaries in Calcutta which contains *seven lakhs* of people, there are only 479 among a population of *seven hundred lakhs* ! But this does not give an adequate idea of the situation The 15 dispensaries of Calcutta are located in a compact town of a few miles ; but the 479 dispensaries in the Moffusil are scattered over in an area of thousands of miles. The table shows that, out of a population of nearly seventy-one hundred lakhs, only one lakh and-a-half of people canavail of the dispensaries. Is not this a terrible fact ? What does the table disclose ? It discloses that, in the interior of Bengal 70,665,427 *minus* 147,526 go without any medical help ! But the picture is not yet complete. According to the official estimate, there are at least 147,526 people who can avail of the 479 dispensaries, but that is not correct. Those only who live in the neighbourhood of a dispensary, that is to say, those who live within a distance of, say, three or four miles, can afford to come to it. This means that only *a few thousands* of people, who live close to the dispensaries, can derive any benefit from them. One instance will put the position in a vivid light. There is one dispensary at Jessore and another at Bongong. The distance between the two places is 28 miles. So only two dispensaries are available to the myriads of men who reside in this vast area. Sometimes there is no dispensary or medical man to be found within a distance of 50 or 60 miles ! Is not this a most frightful state of affairs ? And need any body now wonder why lakhs and lakhs of people are being annually decimated by fever, cholera and other diseases ?

TOWNSPEOPLE, rich or poor, need very little medical help ; but people in the Moffusil, both rich and poor, absolutely need it. The Dufferin Fund should, therefore, be utilized for the benefit of the latter. That is also the view of H. H. the Maharaja of Durbhanga. Government, it is said, has no money to carry out large sanitary measures for the improvement of the health of Moffusil people, though it has ample funds to conduct big military expeditions. Well, if Government cannot undertake large sanitary measures, it can at least provide the masses with good drinking water, medicine and medical men. In this way, hundreds of thousands of men women and children may be saved annually from death and disease in the villages and hamlets of India. Surely, it is the first duty of the Government to look after the health of the people who maintain a costly administration. But the apathy of the Government in this matter, as the table quoted above shews, is simply appalling. Here is, however, a work in which Lady Curzon, who is in charge of the Lady Dufferin Fund, may find a most pleasant occupation. Let Her Excellency spend every pice of the Fund for those who really require help and not for those who need it not. People residing in towns can manage to get medical help somehow or other, but the vast majority of the people in the Moffusil are so helpless that they cannot, secure it either for love or for money. A large portion of the Fund is swallowed up by big buildings and establishments. This is a mere waste of money. Let Her Excellency employ medical men and women and send them out in the interior to distribute medicine and afford medical treatment, free of cost, and she will earn the blessings of millions. Indeed, it is in this way that the Lady Dufferin Fund can be best utilized and all popular opposition to it disarmed.

A CORRESPONDENT of the *Hindu* has lost his temper over an article, in the *Indian Church Quarterly Review* of Calcutta, by Mr. Missionary J. A. Sharrock M.A., of Trichinopoly, in which the writer abuses the Native Christians and attributes their wickedness to their being originally Hindus. The idea of the writer is, we are told, that the Hindus are so very wicked that even Christianity can never improve their morals. A Hindu saint says :—"A piece of charcoal can never be purified by innumerable washings ; but a spark of fire will do it." If Christianity cannot purify even a Hindu, then, according to Mr. Sharrock, Christianity has no vitality and purifying element in it. The article, we are told, is brimming over with the abuse of the Hindus. It has, as for instance, such sentences as these :—

That the Hindus *as a race* are probably the *most immoral, treacherous* and *cunning* people on the face of this wicked earth will generally be admitted. To expatiate on it would be waste of time." "Hinduism being a pure matter of ceremony, places no check on vice and demands no change of heart" "To seduce an unmarried woman is no sin at all."

The correspondent is so angry that he calls upon the Government to prosecute this pious servant of Christ on charges of sedition, for it is provided by law that "whoever promotes feelings of enmity and hatred between different classes, &c., &c." The correspondent, who calls himself a Hindu, has no business to lose his temper in this manner. Hindus, being now associated with Christians for two hundred years, should have learnt from them what are called Christian meekness, Christian charity and Christian tolerance. In our school-days we had the good luck of coming across a pious and eloquent Missionary who was criticizing the immoral conduct of the Hindu gods, when one of his Hindu listeners quoted a passage from the Old Testament, in which, he alleged, God was made to direct Abraham to kill all other women but those who were virgins whom he should keep for himself. The Missionary, who had a rather hot temper, thereupon got irritated. The writer of this, who was then present, intervened with the remark that he had no right to lose his temper in a religious discussion. And then the preacher turned upon him and said ; "I have *not* lost my temper, and *thou art a liar.*" Of course, this very remark of the Missionary showed clearly that he had *not* lost his temper. Mr. Sharrock ought to give one credit at least to the Hindus—they do not drink like Christians. Babu Panchkari Bannerjee, editor of the *Basumati*, is expected to deliver a lecture next Saturday at the City College Hall on the claims of Lord Gauranga upon humanity. We hope those who are interested like the meek and holy Mr. Sharrock, in the spiritual progress of the accursed Hindus, would come to listen to him and see for themselves what sort of religion the Hindus follow.

THE reader is already aware of the close of the trial of Wasodeo, Ranade and Sathe, for the murder of the Dravid brothers. Sathe, in consideration of his youth and of the fact that he was only an abettor, has been sentenced to 10 years' imprisonment. The first and second accused, however, have been sentenced to the extreme penalty provided by the Code—death on the gallows.

OUR Kurigram correspondent now sends us the name of the upcountryman who saved the life of Mr. Hutchison, District Superintendent of Police, at the cost of his own. The lives of the great and the poor are equally precious to those who are dear or dependent on them, and hence the golden deed performed by Jitta Sing, the saviour of Mr. Hutchison, deserves the credit of being classed with those recorded in the Book of Golden Deeds, for some time a text-book in the local University. The pity is, though our Anglo-Indian contemporaries are always to the fore to mention any little act of gallantry by a soldier or other European, they have not moved a finger to bring the really great self-sacrifice of this heroic Indian. This shows them up in their true colour.

THE Magistrate of the 24-Parganahs, has just done a graceful act, for which he deserves public thanks. He has recommended Babu Ashutosh Sircar, son of the late Dr. Suresh Chandra Sircar, who fell a victim to the horrible outrages of some European soldiers at Barrackpur, to the newly created Sub-Registrarship of Bankipur in the 24-Parganahs. We hope the Inspector-General of Registration will find his way to confirm the nomination. It may not be out of place to state here that Sir John Woodburn has, since the tragic occurrence, been taking a kindly interest in the family of the deceased Suresh Chander. Indeed, on a representation of the sad case to His Honor, he was so moved as to appoint Ashutosh an apprentice in the office of the Sub-Registrar of Alipur.

THE other day, the Sherpur corresponden of the Maimansing paper, *Charu mihir* complained of the extraordinary conduct of Mr Roe, the District Magistrate, who gave a rather undignified chase to some school-boys, because they were led out of curiosity to get a peep at him and who, failing to catch them, spent his anger on another man that he came across. The last number of the paper publishes the particulars of another incident in connection with Mr. Roe which is nonetheless extraordinary. On the 23rd February last, Mr. Roe entered the office occupied by the copyists of the Collectorate and found Babu Bepin Chandra Lahiri, a Court apprentice there. He asked the latter who he was and what he wanted and immediately caught him by the hand, gave him a push and slapped him. The man made good his escape before further damage could be done.

THE once notorious freebooter Chikkai who made the Kurram Valley his hunting-ground and sacred the Turis by his repeated raids, is now quite the model border chieftain beloved by the British authorities. He was staunch all through the frontier troubles, and did yeoman's service in keeping the Zaimukht clans quiet. The tract of territory which he controls is in admirable order, mainly because no one thinks of seriously questioning his authority. He has summary methods with his followers, if they show any disposition to cavil at his orders. Thus some time ago four of his men foolishly joined a Waziri raiding party into Khost, where some of the Amir's subjects were "held up." On their return he arrested them and sent them to the Political Officer in Kurram. The latter, however, could not detain them as they had come in on a safe-conduct, so he sent them back with a request to Chikkai to settle up the fine which was adjudged as due. He promptly sent the money and fined one of the men an additional sum of Rs. 100 for having given out that he had joined the raiders with Chikka's permission. The man refused to pay, whereupon Chikkai shot him on the spot in order to enforce discipline.

An Editor Finds a Sure Cure for Rheumatism.

A. R. De Fluent, editor of the *Journal*, Doylestown, Ohio, suffered for a number of years from rheumatism in his right shoulder and side. He says. "My right arm at times was entirely useless I tried Chamberlain's Pain Balm, and was surprised to receive relief almost immediately. The Pain Balm has been a constant companion o mine ever since and it never fails." For sale by

SMITH STANISTREET & CO. and
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PLAGUE IN CALCUTTA.—There were three cases of suspected plague reported in Calcutta on Friday, and two deaths, bringing the total deaths from this cause up to 234. The deaths from all causes numbered 98, compared with 78, the average of the last five year. There were seven cases of suspected plague reported on Saturday, and four deaths, bringing the total deaths from this cause up to 238. The deaths from all causes numbered 90, compared with 78, the average of the last five years. On Monday last there were 8 seizures and eight deaths from plague. The total mortality was 93 as against 78, the average of the five previous years. Of seizures there were—1 in Ward No. 2, 1 in 3, 2 in 6, 2 in 9, 1 in 22 and 1 whose address could not be ascertained; of deaths there were—1 in Ward No. 2, 1 in 5, 3 in 7, 1 in 8, 1 in 9, and 1 whose address could not be ascertained.

ABDUCTION.—Yesterday before Babu C. N. Singh, Deputy Magistrate of Alipore, a young Indian of Tallygunge was charged with having enticed away a married girl from the lawful custody of her husband. Accused and the complainant were partners and hence the former freqnently came to the house of the latter. On the day of occurrence accused, taking advantage of the absence of the complainant, took away his wife and concealed her in various places in order to avoid detection. He was sentenced to two months' rigorous imprisonment.

A. B. RAILWAY.—The Silchar branch of he Assam-Bengal Railway will be inspected by the Agent on the 13th instant, and there is a probability that the line will be passed, and the sanction of the Consulting Engineer be forthwith obtained for the opening to passenger traffic by the 1st proximo. On that day goods traffic will be opened in the 8th Division up to Damcherra, the Barak Bridge having been passed some time ago.

TIGER SCARE IN BANKURA.—Of most districts in Bengal none there is which is exposed to the depredation of wild beasts—from the enormous elephant to the meanest animal. Certain tracts have already been run over by several wild elephants. About a fortnight ago, one Saday Gope came upon a tiger sleeping in a deep *nullah* outside the village of Somsar. He saw the unwelcome visitor lying with his huge head resting on his paws. Saday at once made his way to the village to give *khubbur* to the local nimrodr. And at once a shikar expedition was formed with many guns and a large number of people. They reached the spot but no trace of the tiger was to be found. The party were retracing their steps homewards when Saday Gope threw a stone into a wheat field, and with a roar like thunder Master stripes sprang out and alighted on the body of the irreverent rustic. There was a hand-to-hand fight between man and beast. Those who had come with guns to destroy the latter now made themselves scarce leaving Saday to fight his own battle. In vain did the victim cry—"save me, save me." His struggles, however, were such that the tiger let go his hold and made off. If Saday was saved, a cow fell a victim to its wrath.

INVENTIONS AND DESIGNS.—Applications in respect of the undermentioned inventions have been filed under the provisions of the Inventions and Designs Act of 1888, in the office of the Secretary appointed under that Act during the week ending 25th February 1899 :—Reginald Belfield, electrician, of 32, Victoria street, in the city of Westminister, England, Improvements in controllers for electric motors; Jan Mohamed, late supervisor, railways, son of Mohamed Asanaullah, resident of Nur Mahal, district Jullundur, Punjab, a method of lifting water from wells and resevoirs, with double mots for irrigation and other purposes without the help of bullocks ; Oswall Ivan Milne, accountant of Bishopsgate house, Bishopsgate street, London, an apparatus for making flycatchers; Arthur Kitson, mechanical engineer, of 213 West Upsal street, Germantown, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, U. S. A., improvements in vapour-burning apparatus, and in means for distributing iquid hydro carbon hereto; Charles Daniel Theabald, chief telegraph inspector, Madras Railway, Arkunam, North Arcot district, a simplex lock block apparatus for regulating traffic on single or double lines of railway ; William Franks, superintendent, Scandinavian mission, 2 Municipal Office Street, Calcutta, a paper holder, to be called the "cyclone paper holder" ; Otto Siebold, chemist, of 27 Sophienstrasse, Leipzig, in the kingdom of Saxony, an improved process for the production of alkali compounds of albuminious substances ; Arthur Charles Thomas, book-keeper, of 17 Woburnhill, and Joseph Edward Atkinson, miller of 481 Derwent Road, Stoneycraft, both of Liverpool, in the county of Lancaster, an improved counter balance, suspender for billiard chalks and the like.

THERE is a remarkable death of duck this season at Srinagar owing to *jheels* being frozen.

THE famous Asoka's Pillar at Delhi is said to have been originally erected at Meerut some three hundred years before Christ. It was Emperor Firoz Shah who removed it from there and set it up in the Koshak Shikar palace in Delhi about the middle of the fourteenth century. During the first quarter of the eighteen century it was broken into five pieces by the explosion of a powder magazine, but was afterwards set up by the British Government at a cost of seven hundred and seventy-four rupees

GOVERNMENT NOTIFICATIONS.

Mr. C. A. Bell. Jt-Magte and Dy Collr, Muzaffarpur, is appointed to act as Magte and Collr of that district.

Mr. J. Knox Wight, Dist and Sess Judge, Patna, is allowed furlough for one year.

Mr. G. W. Place, Dist and Sess Judge Saran on leave, acting for him.

Mr. F. N. Fischer, Offg Magte and Collr, Birbhum, is allowed furlough for one year.

Mr. W. Teunon, Dist and Sess Judge, Murshidabad, is allowed leave for three months, Mr. C. Fisher, Offg Magte and Collr, Burdwan, acting for him.

Mr. H. Walmsley, Offg Jt-Magt and Dy Collr Ranigunj is appointed to act as Magte and Collr of Burdwan.

Mr. H. H. Emslie, Offg Jt-Magte and Dy Collr, Murshidabad, is appointed to have charge of the Raniganj subdivision.

Babu Jogendra Nath Ghose, Munsif of Comilla, is appointed to act as Sub-Judge of Bhagalpur and ex-officio Sub-Judge of Monghyr but to be on deputation at the latter station, during the absence on deputation of Babu Joges Chandra Mitter.

Babu Syam Chand Dhar Sub-Judge and Asst. Sess. Judge Backergunge, is appointed to act as an Adl Sub-Judge and Asst. Sess. Judge of Faridpur.

Babu Chandi Charan Sen Offg Sub Judge of Shahabad now on deputation as an Adl Sub-Judge of Tirhut, is appointed to act as Sub-Judge of Backergunge during the absence on deputation of Babu Syam Chand Dhur.

Mr. W. E. Gordon Leith, Dy Supdt and Remembrancer of Legai Affairs, is allowed special leave for six months

Babu Jogesh Chandra Mitter, Sub Judge and Asst Sess Judge, Bhagalpur, is appointed to act as Adl Dist and Sess Judge of Dacca and Mymensing, during the absence, on deputation of Mr. Ambika Charan Sen.

Babu Ramesh Chundra Das, Offig Dy Magte and Dy Collr., is posted to Birbhum.

Mr. C A Bell, Jt-Magte and Dy Collr., Muzaffarpur, is appointed to act as Magte and Collr. of that district.

Mr. A H Clayton, Offig Jt-Magte and Dy Collr., Narayanganj, is appointed to have charge of the Giridih sub-division.

Mr H F Howard, Asst Magte and Collr Dacca, is appointed to have charge of the Narayanganj subdivn.

Maulvi Mahomed Abdool Kadir, Dy Magte and Dy Collr., Burdwan, is allowed leave for forty-five days.

Babu Kunja Bihari Goswami, Dy Magte and Dy Collr., is posted temporarily to the Tangail subdivn.

Babu Surendra Nath Ghose, Dy Magte and Dy Collr., Rajshahi, is allowed leave for three months.

Babu Jogneshwar Biswas, Dy Magte and Dy Collr, on leave, is posted to Boalia.

Mr Atul Krishna Ray, Dy Magte and Dy Collr., Araria, is allowed leave up to the 24th April 1899, in extension of the leave granted to him under the order of the 10th February 1899.

Mr. F A Fullerton, Dist Supdt of Police, Palamau, is allowed, leave for three months.

Mr. H E C Paget, Dy Commr of Police, Calcutta, is allowed leave for two months and twenty-nine days, Mr F L Halliday, Dist Supdt of Police, Gaya acting for him.

Mr. J Cowie, Dist Supdt of Police, Jessore, under orders of transfer to Darbhanga, is allowed special leave for one month and six days.

Maulvi Abdul Fatah Mahomed Abdul Hafees, Spl Sub-Regr of Saran, is allowed extraordinary leave without allowances for six weeks.

Military Asst Surg C. A. R. Haegert, Inspecting Medl Officer, Chausa Plague Observation Camp, is appointed until further orders to do supernumerary duty at the Presidency General Hospital, Calcutta.

Lieut-Col J. Lewtas, I. M. S., Civil Surgeon of Darjeeling, is appointed to act as a Civil Surgeon of the first class.

Lieut-Col R. Cobb, I. M. S., is appointed to act as a Civil Surgeon of the first class.

Military Assistant Surgeon D. R. Davies is appointed to be an Inspecting Medical Officer at Chausa station on the East Indian Railway.

Babu Hari Prosad Ghosal, Supervisor, 1st grade, Bengal, is appointed to the Provincial Engineer Service of the Public Works Department as an Assistant Engineer 3rd grade and posted to Bengal. He is posted to the Dacca Division.

Colonel A. D. McArthur, R.E., Chief Engr and Secy to the Bengal Government in the Irrigation and Marine Departments, is granted privilege leave for one month and eight days

Asst Surg Biman Bihari Basu is appointed Offg House Physician, 1st Physician's Ward Medical College Hospital, Calcutta.

Asst Surg Hari Nath Ghosh is appointed House Physician, 2nd Physician's Ward, Medical College Hospital, Calcutta,

Asst Surg Roma Nath Dey is appointed to do supernumerary duty at the Medical College Hospital.

MUNICIPAL BILL PROREST MEETING.

LAST evening a protest meeting was held in the house of Babu Srinath Das, a leading Vakeel of the High Court. The meeting was, as usual, well attended. Babu Srinath Das not only decorated and lighted the house but covered the lane leading to it from the Wellington Street with red cloth. He bore all the expenses of the meeting himself. Mr. A. M. Bose, though just recovered from a rather severe attack of influenza, took the chair and delivered a speech which we will report subsequently. Dr. Suresh Chandra Sarvadhikari delivered an impressive and practical speech, while Babu Panchkari Banerjee kept the audience amused by his humorous words. A memorial was adopted for submission to Government. The following resolution was also adopted unanimously :—

"That this meeting places on record its loyal and respectful protest against the principle of the Calcutta Municipal Bill now before the Legislative Council of His Honour the Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal, which, in its opinion, is subversive of local self-Government and calculated to impair very seriously the cause of efficient Municipal administration in Calcutta. It further regrets that the Bill, in spite of repeated representations to His Honour, is being hurried through the Select Committee without any or adequate consideration being given to the memorials submitted to him.

THE original Bolan line has been relaid with sleepers and rails.

Centre for Studies in Social Sciences, Calcutta

Law Intelligence.

HIGH COURT.—CIVIL APPELLATE JURISDICTION.—MARCH 7.

(Before Justices Prinsep and Stanley)

A BURDWAN MURDER CASE.

JUDGE AND JURY DISAGREE

Their Lordships were occupied yesterday and to-day in hearing a murder case from Burdwan which came up before them on a reference under Section 307 of the Criminal Procedure Code by Mr. Windsor, the Sessions Judge. The Jury were for acquittal and the Judge for conviction. The facts of the case as stated by the Judge shortly were, that the Sub-Inspector of Police of thana Ausgram, in the district of Burdwan, received an information on the 11th December last that the neice of the informant Runupodo and the wife of Kedar Karmakar, the accused in this case, had been missing for some time from her husband's house at Birenda where she had been living. On receipt of this information the Police repaired to the village, and after a search for about a week, on the 10th December, the Sub-Inspector had some suspicion with regard to a well, on the surface of the water of which some oily substance was seen floating and also dirty smell was emitting. The well was in consequence dewatered, and as it contained water 21 feet deep it took two days to reach the bottom, where a heavy packet was found, and it being fished up it was found to contain a dead body of a female which was identified by some villagers as that of the deceased. The accused was then arrested by the Police, and he made a statement to the effect that he gave a slap to his wife because she expressed a desire to get ornaments which her husband could not give her from some other person. This, the accused said, incensed him highly and he gave her a slap. She then fell down and died subsequently. With the help of an unwilling relation he placed the body in a gunny bag and threw it into the well in question. The accused and his relation for screening an offender by removing evidence, were sent up for trial. There was no other evidence against the accused persons save their statements which they subsequently withdrew alleging that they had made them because the Police had beaten them. The Jury did not believe the evidence and by a majority returned a verdict of not guilty.

Mr. Pugh, who appeared for the accused against the reference, pointed out the difficulty of correctly identifying the dead body, as according to the Sub-Inspector there was very slight skin left on the face. He argued the case at great length submitting that the conclusion the Jury had arrived at was a right one.

The case is proceeding.

FEARFUL PROPHETIC DREAM FULFILLED.

IN a recent issue of *Light* (January 28th) we find a translation of a communication sent by Mr. Joseph Kronhelm, of Padolia, Russia, concerning the terriole dream of M. Lukawski, of the Ministry of Marine, St. Petersburg, who afterwards suffered "death from shipwreck of the steamer *Wladimir*, in the Black Sea." The dream is thus narrated:

One night in the early part of the year 1895, Madame Lukawski was awakened by groans and cries of 'Help! save me!' proceeding from her husband, who was going through various movements which seemed to her to be like those of a person who was being drowned. He had, in fact, being dreaming of a terrible catastrophe at sea; and on becoming quite awake he told her he had dreamed of finding himself on a large steamer which was sunk by a collision with another steamer, so that he was thrown into the sea to perish. Having made this communication to his wife, he exclaimed, 'Ah! it is certain that I shall meet my death at sea'; and so sure was he of this that from that time he set himself about putting all his affairs in order as a man would naturally do who clearly saw his end approaching. Two months passed, however, with no untoward event, and the memory of the dream was fading, when M. Lukawski suddenly received instructions from the Ministry of Marine to proceed with his employes to certain ports of the Black Sea. While taking leave of his wife at the railway station, St. Petersburg, M. Lukawski said to her, 'Do you remember my dream?' 'My God! what of that?' asked his wife. 'I am certain' he replied, 'that I shall never come back—that we shall never meet again.' Madame Lukawski endeavoured to tranquillise him but he added with an air of great sadness: 'Say what you will, you will not change my conviction; for I feel that my end is approaching; nothing can avail to save me; yes! I see the port—I see the steamer—the moment of collision—the panic—and my death!—everything before my eyes.'

When two weeks had passed since the final parting from her husband, Madame Lukawski read of the fatal collision between the two steamers, *Wadimir* and *Sineus*, which occurred in June, 1895, in the Black Sea. Latter, a fellow passenger who was cast into the waves with her husband, but was finally rescued, gave Madame Lukawski a full account of the unfortunate death of her beloved companion, and it corresponded with his prophetic dream in the minutest details.

THE Sibi Durbar was postponed from the 25th to the 27th last.

A QUAINT letter was received a few days ago from the father of a native prisoner in Bhagalpur Central Jail. It told the son that the great Queen-Empress's grandson would visit the jail in the month of March, and that on the Prince's arrival the Jail gates would be allowed to stand open for two minutes only that all prisoners who could get out in that limited time would be set free. The letter advised the son to be near the gate and to find out the exact date of the visit, so as to be sure to be among the lucky ones.—*Englishman.*

NITRAGIN, the new aid to agriculture, which has been the subject of much criticism, more or less adverse, was dealt with in a recent paper to the Royal Society by Maria Dawson, B Sc. (London and Wales), communicated by Professor Marshall Ward, F. R. S. The author finds that the nodules found on the roots of leguminous plants contain parasitic filaments and bacteroids. Commercial "nitragin" consists of tubercle organisms, and hence both seeds or soils inoculated with it show the tubercle formation. Young roots may also be directly infected with it. As to the practical value of nitragin, she adds that it is inadvisable to use it on soils rich in nitrates, but that it helps the crop of soils poor in nitrates; but a still better yield is obtained by adding nitrates to the soil.

Telegrams.

[INDIAN TELEGRAM.]

SPORT AT BAGERHAT.

BAGERHAT, MAR. 6.

A football match was held here today between the Bagerhat School and the Khararia school teams. Bagerhat party won by one goal. The field was crowded with respectable spectators.

(FOREIGN TELEGRAMES.)

LONDON, MAR. 3.

It is announced that Great Britain recognises the entire equality of France and England under the Treaty of 1862 relating to Oman and assents to a French coaling-station at Muscat, provided that there is no cession of territory

LONDON, MAR. 3.

Mr. Wyndham, Under-Secretary for war has proposed to commemorate certain actions is the Soudan on the colours of the troops concerned. It is remarked that no recommendation to that effect has been received regarding the Tirah campaign.

LONDON, MAR. 3.

There is every likelihood that the Italian demand for the cession of Sanmun Bay will be rejected by the Chinese, who believe that Great Britain instigated the demand, and is inaugurating a policy for the partition of China.

LONDON, MAR. 4.

The Criminal Section of the Court of Cassession has decided that Colonel Picquart shall first be tried in the Civil Court on a charge of forgery, and afterwards by Court-martial, on a charge of divulging secret documents.

LONDON, MAR. 4

The *Daily Telegraph* announces that General Hunter returns to England, and it is understood that he has accepted the Quetta Command.

LONDON, MAR. 4.

A telegram to the *Daily Graphic* says that Sir Claude Macdonald has assured the Tsung, li-Yamen that China may rely upon the suppor, of Great Britain in resisting attempts to forcher to repudiate the Newchang Railway contract.

LONDON, MAR. 3.

Dewey has been appointed Admiral, and Otis Major-General, for distinguished services.

LONDON, MAR. 4.

Major Macdonal's expedition has arrived at Mombassa from the interior and reports all well. It is believed that the object of the mission has been abandoned.

LONDON, MAR. 4.

Senor Silvela has formed a Spanish Conservative Cabinet, and the Cortes has been dissolved.

LONDON, MAR. 4.

Ireland has beaten Wales in the Association Football match by one goal to *nil*. Scotlan. defeated Wales in the Rugby match by twenty one points to ten.

LONDON, MAR. 5.

It is announced in Rome that the refusal of Tsungliyamen to lease Tanmun Bay is not regarded seriously by Italy, who maintains her original demand. Meanwhile the Chinese Minister to Italy, who is now in London, has received a telegram ordering him to proceed to Rome to confer with the Government.

LONDON, MAR. 5.

The effects of the explosion of the magazine at Toulon resemble a volcanic eruption, the country being devastated for a radius of two miles.

LONDON, MAR. 6.

Rudyard Kipling's child Josephine has died of pneumonia in New York.

The Kaiser, as an enthusiastic admirer of his unrivalled books, has cabled an enquiry regarding Kipling's condition.

LONDON, MAR. 6.

It is understood that Major Macdonald returns to England. Telegams from Mombassa affirm that the object of his mission has been entirely fulfilled.

LONDON, MAR. 6.

Despatches from Manila state that the Filipinos attempted to recapture the water-works at Manila, but were repulsed by the Americans after sharp fighting.

LONDON, MAR. 6.

The Emperor of Germany has received delegates from the Ceylon Planters' Association.

In the French Chamber of Deputies to-day M. Delcasse, Minister of Foreign Affairs, related the history of the Muscat affair. The British Government, he said, had recognised without delay the identical rights of France and England in Muscat, and it was not at a moment when the two Governments were negotiating the African delimitation, which would be a guarantee of the lasting *entente* for safeguarding the essential interests of both countries, that the British Government could countenance the incorrect and spontaneous intervention of one of its agents, for which, added M. Delcasse, the Queen's Government have expressed to us their profound regret.

LONDON, MAR. 7.

The *Times* comments this morning upon the divergence of M. Delcasse's statements in the Chamber of Deputies from those made in the British Parliament on the Muscat affair, and says that if the latter are correct the local Agents of the British Government deserve commendation, not repudiation, as apparently their vigilance baffled the original designs of France.

LONDON, MAR. 7.

The *Times'* Peking correspondent wires that the French Minister on February 24 wired the Tsung-li-Yamen of the Italian demands, and counselled their immediate rejection.

LONDON, MAR. 7.

The Russian and French Ministers have announced to the Yamen the early withdrawal of their Marines from peking. The American Marinese are already leaving the Chinese capital.

The whole Court of Cassation has assembled for the purpose of hearing the Dreyfus case, and has appointed M. Beaupre as reporter. The public hearing is not likely to be taken before the 10th of April.

INDIAN NEWS.

THE Nawab of Dir's condition has improved.

THE rumours regarding the impending trouble in Afghanistan are believed to be quite groundless.

SATURDAY'S Bombay plague returns show 178 new cases and 141 deaths. There were 303 deaths from all causes, against 334 on the same date last year.

THREE more cases of plague have occurred at the village of Gurchah. The first case occurred on the 28th ultimo, since when there have been seven cases and two deaths. The village is being evacuated.

PRINCE KADEFOS SULTANE, Consul-General of Persia, and Mr. Cowasjee Rustomjee, Vice-Consul, have paid a brief visit to Lucknow, sight-seeing.

H. E. the GOVERNOR and Staff, with Mr. Stokes, Chief Secretary to Government, arrived in Madras on Monday morning from Caicutta by the East Coast Railway.

A JEMADAR camel-driver of the Commissariat Department was severely mauled the other day by a camel outside the Cantonment gate, Dehra Ismail Khan, and died of his injuries.

A CORRESPONDENT writes: "The Khansamah of the Jullundur Cantonment Railway Station, who was being tried criminally for entering the compartment of an English lady when the train was in motion, has been acquitted by the District Magistrate."

THE appeal preferred by the Kumara Raja of Pittapore against the decision of Mr. Justice Shephard and Mr. Justice Davies in the Pittapore case, has been dismissed by the Privy Council.

THE second batch of twenty-six prisoners concerned in the Seringapatam riots of November last have just been sentenced to various terms of imprisonment, nine of them having to pay fines of Rs. 500 each.

WE understand that arrangements are about to be made to detail Engineers to settle preliminaries for the construction of the sanctioned Shikohabad-Farrakabad section of the East Indian Railway.

FOR the Bombay examination for the Degree of L.C. E. in 1898, there were 15 candidates of whom 11 passed the examination. In 1897 there were 13 candidates, of whom 12 passed the examination, and in 1896 there were 14 candidates, of whom 12 passed the examination.

THE following are the successful candidate in the Examinations in Engineering held in Madras in January last:—F. E. Examination. V. Gopalayya, P. Janakiram, R. Sitaraman, A. Subramanyam, R. V. Dikshitar; B. E. (Civil Branch): U. S. Ramaswamy Iyer; B. E (Mechanical Branch): K. S. Subbusawmi Iyer, B. M. Visvanadha Iyer.

IT is notified that an application has been made to the Government of Madras by the Raja of Parlakimedi for sanction to the construction of a line of tramway on the two foot six-inch gauge in the district of Ganjam, Madras Presidency. The draft order authorising the construction of such tramway by the promoter is published.

THE Rosident has again requested the Nizam's Government to reconsider their decision in the matter of a branch line of Railway being opened from Bassin to Hingoly or some other station on the H.G.V.R under construction, as there is not the slightest doubt that such light Railways would do a great deal of good in opening out a large grain producing country for trade.

THE tribal service difficulty in the Khyber, upon which Mr. W. F. Cunningham has been engaged as Special Commissioner since October last, has been brought to a satisfactory conclusion by the fact of the Zakka Khel Maliks, Khwas Khan and Wali Mahomed Khan, having returned from Kabul, and presented themselves as representatives of the two principal sections of this powerful clan.

A VERY successful balloon ascent and parachute descent was accomplished by Captain Laurence at Benares on Monday evening. The ascension took place from the courtyard of the Old Mint in the presence of a large concourse of European and Native gentlemen and Kunjar Maharaja of Benares. A strong easterly wind was blowing which carried the balloon rapidly, and Captain Laurence landed near the Native Infantry Hospital, about a mile as the crow flies, from where the balloon rose.

A LAHORE telegram dated 6th instant, states:—Lieutenant Carter, Commandant of the Kurram Militia, proceeded on Saturday to the villages of Badanli and Kamutza, which are in Kurram but are inhabited by the Khani Khel Chamkannis, and disarmed the villagers as a precuationary measure. Now it is known that a large *lashkar* from Awa Darra arrived at Makranai half an hour after the troops had retired, so their smartness in retiring when the work was done probably saved a rear guard action. While the troops were retiring they were encumbered by the prisoners and captured cattle. Captain Roos Keppel having suggested the possibility of Chamkanni reprisals near Sadda, the garrison of this outpost has been increased by 70 rifles from Parachiner.

DISTRESS increases in Rajputana, over five thousand persons being now in receipt of famine relief though upwards of four thousand people have emigrated from affected Ajmere and Melwara villages. No rain fell during the week, but irrigation work continues, and the condition of the crops is, therefore, generally good, notwithstanding frost and hail, which injured them in two or three districts. Eight districts reports scarcity of fodder though the condition of cattle so far is generally very good. As regards food-grains. It is reported that prices are rising in six States. Bombay reports show that standing crops have been damaged by frost in parts of the Upper Sind Frontiers and by rats in one taluka of Bijapur. American cotton has been blighted in two taluka of Dharwar. The harvesting of the late crops is progressing in seventeen, and preparations for next season are being made in nine districts. Cotron-picking continues in parts of Guzarat and Kathiawar. Fodder is sufficient, except in parts of Sind and agricultured stock is healthy. Prices unfortunately have risen in seven districts, and have fallen in only three. But there is not likely to be any serious advance. Elsewhere in India the agricultural outlook is fairly satisfactory.

URGENT NOTICE.

The Times notifies the public that on or before next Tuesday, March, 14, the sale of *The Times* Reprint of the *Encyclopaedia Britannica* (Ninth Edition), at the remarkably low prices which now obtain under the special offer to residents in India, will be discontinued. The discount of more than fifty per cent from the price at which the same work was offered by Messrs. A. and C. Black, the Publishers of the *Encyclopaedia Britannica* has excited the interest of book-buyers in all parts of India, and of the limited number of copies which could be sold under this arrangement, and at these remarkable prices, but few remain.

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FREE BY POST.—For the convenience of those who desire fuller information in regard to the *Encyclopædia Britannica*, a pamphlet has been prepared, containing specimen pages and brief extracts from the work. This pamphlet will be sent, post free, upon application to the

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Centre for Studies in Social Sciences, Calcutta

CORPORATION OF CALCUTTA.

THE TRAMWAY QUESTION.

A SPECIAL meeting of the Commissioners of the Calcutta Municipality was held yesterday when the Tramway question was again taken up for consideration.

The Chairman laid on the table the following agreement proposed by the Tramway Co, which was, he said, almost entirely in conformity with the decisions arrived at by the General Committee on the 21st ultimo :—

"With reference to the case instituted by the Corporation against this Company under 'the Calcutta Tramways Act, 1880,' now pending before the Chief Presidency Magistrate and to the undertaking to be given by this Company for completion of the work of reconstruction pursuant to the arrrangement come to before the said Chief Presidency Magistrate when the case was called on before him on 10th January last, I now give you the undertaking as follows:

"2. I undertake, on behalf of this Company to complete the reconstruction of the tramway lines in the Town of Calcutta and the Added Area thereof, as defined in the schedule hereunder written by 31st December next. The rate of work as from 1st day of March, 1899, to be not less than 3,600 feet of double line, or 7,200 feet of single line per month, and in the event of the actual work done in any one month falling short of this stipulated monthly quantity, the Company is to be allowed in computing such monthly quantity to bring into account and be credited with the quantity of work executed from the said 1st. day of March,, 1899, in excess of the minimum rate above mentioned Should the Chairman of the Corporation at any time be of opinion that the Company has failed to maintain the monthly quantity, he shall notify that fact to the Company and shall himself enquire into the matter, and after such enquiry in the course of which the Company's representative shall be heard, he shall allow the Company not less than two weeks' time in which to make up the deficiency in the quantity of amount of work, but in fixing the time to be allowed for making of such deficiency the Chairman shall give due consideration to the cause from which such deficiency, may have arisen. Should the Company thereafter fail to make up the deficient amount of work within the time which may be fixed by the Chairman for that purpose, the Corporation shall be at liberty to have the case now pending before the Chief Presidency Magistrate resumed and proceeded with on due notice to the Company. An order is now to be asked for in the case against us postponing it *sine die*.

"3. This undertaking however, is to be subject to the following provisos, that is to say—

"(1) Provided the Company are not impeded in their work of reconstruction by reason of scarcity of labour caused by plague, famene strikes, or any other such cause tending to interfere with the obtaining of the proper supply of labourors for the work.

"(2) Provided the Company are not impeded by reason of any strike of Engineers and workmen which have the effect of delaying the manufacture of rails and other appliances and interfere with their obtaining the necessary supply of material in due time, or provided the arrival of the material for the work is not delayed by reason of the loss or detention of any of the vessels on which the same may have been laden for transport to Calcutta.

"(3) Provided the Company are allowed to open up two or more places in long streets and to carry on their operations in those places simultaneously, so long as a quarter of a mile of space is left free from obstructions between each of the said places, and so long as there is no undue obstruction to traffic.

"(4) Provided no undue and unnecessary interference with or obstruction by the Corporation or their servants takes place, and that the Corporation and their servants allow and give to the Company all reasonable facilities for the carrying on and completion of the work of reconstruction and repairs."

After some desultory discussion Mr. Simmons moved that the whole agreement be reconsidered.

Babu Lal Behari Bysack seconded the motion and it was carried.

Mr. Simmons then moved that section 2 and section 4 of clause 3 be taken out.

The motion being duly seconded, was carried.

He also moved that section 3 be taken away, This motion was lost by the casting vote of the Chairman.

On the motion of Mr. Tremearne the rest of the agreement was formally adopted.

The meeting then separated.

INDIA AND ENGLAND.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

LONDON, FEB 20.

THE CALCUTTA MUNICIPAL BILL.

THE entire Parliamentary week has been occupied by a series of debates on various amendments to the Queen's speech, most of which have been of domestic interest rather than imperial. On Tuesday night Mr. Herbert Roberts moved his amendment with regard to the Calcutta Municipal Bill as follows :—

And we humbly assure your Majesty that we regard with grave concern the introduction of the Calcutta Municipal Bill, now under consideration by the Bengal Legislative Council, which, if enacted, will practically destroy the representative character of the Calcutta municipality, and will constitute a retrograde step in the system of local government in India, and pray that your Majesty will graciously direct that the further consideration of the Bill be postponed until a duly constituted commission has taken evidence and has reported upon the objections urged against the Bill by the ratepayers of Calcutta.

Mr. Roberts entered upon a calm and very searching criticism of the proposed measure. He began by tracing the history of the creation and development of Municipal institutions in India and contended that the history of the Municipal administration of Calcutta proves that permanent improvement in the sanitary condition of the city is only possible and had been achieved through the co-operation of those who form the great mass of the population. He then fully described the Municipal system now in force in Calcutta and pointed out to the House that the new Bill destroyed the two essential conditions of the existing municipal system ,viz., the exact relation between the representative and the non-representative element both in the main body of Commissioners and in the Executive, and the responsibility of the Executive to the Corporation which elected it. Mr. Roberts then quoted a long series of opinions of distinguished Bengal officials, as unprejudiced witnesses to the successful administration of the Calcutta Municipality, including Sir Steuart Bailey, Sir Antony MacDonnell and Sir John Woodburn. He then explained lucidly and briefly to the House the reactionary provisions of the proposed Bill, critically examined and exposed the fallacious reasons given for these drastic changes, and closed a singularly able and conclusive speech of forty minutes with an earnest appeal in favour of delay and careful reconsideration. As I expect very deep interest will be taken in the Parliamentary discussion of this Bill all over India, I have had Mr. Roberts' speech carefully reported verbatim.

Mr. Robinson Souttar seconded the amendment. Mr. Souttar resided for many years in Calcutta and during that time had unusual opportunities of judging the Calcutta Municipality, as he constructed the entire system of Calcutta tramways. He said :—

Speaking from personal knowledge, the commissioners of Calcutta were an exceedingly well-educated public-spirited and honourable body of men who would be gladly welcome even in this honourable House. It would be a great misfortune for India if men of this class, a much higher class than those occupying similar positions in this country, abstained from seeking the suffrages of the electors, and he was much inclined to think but they would no longer regard it as worth their while to solicit those suffrages. He did not suspect the present Government of any desire to strangle local self-government in India. Local self-government was not a wicked innovation of the Radicals. The Calcutta Bill was introduced by Sir R. Temple, a Conservative, and local self-government was given to India under the *regime* of Lord Beaconsfield.

The trouble of Calcutta was over-centralization. At present there were 75 commissioners, and the business of Calcutta was looked after by 18 men. There were two results from this fact—in the first place the work was scamped, and in the second place it was made abortive by criticism. Thus there were 18 busy men and 57 critics. In the future, however, there would be 12 busy men and 63 dummies ; but this distribution was based on a misconception of the difficulty which existed in Calcutta. What was wanted there was not concentration, but a division of labour : each commissioner should be appointed to a particular task. It was impossible to govern Calcutta or any other Indian city through 12 commissioners. There were strange caste prejudices which baffled the reformer, and especially the sanitary reformer, at every turn. But Calcutta was not the only municipality that needed to be stirred up, and he should like to know whether it had ever occurred to the Government that they had themselves to blame in this matter. The same problems had to be faced by the Government elsewhere, and they should be faced on a uniform plan. In his judgment the Government were deviating from the policy of slowly and steadily teaching the natives to govern themselves. He advocated the creation of a powerful local government board, which should have at its disposal the best sanitary knowledge. It should be in touch with every municipality, and should have full power to advice, warn, and compel.

Mr. McKenna, member for Monmouthshire, claiming no knowledge of Indian affairs, declared that it was the duty of every private Member of the House to exercise his duty of safeguarding the interests of the inhabitants of India. Said he :—

The proposal of the Bengal Legislative Council amounted to the practical repeal of the power oft local self-government in Calcutta. If it were carried into effect he believed it would leave an impression on the educated opinion of India that they were going back on the policy they had publicy advocated and supported for the last 25 years, and that they no longer believed in the possibility of educating the people of India in the principles of self-government. That would, in his opinion, be disastrous, and he would appeal for such a consideration of this Calcutta Municipal Bill and for such a delay as was suggested in the amendment as would give an opportunity of at least satisfying public opinion in this country, if they could not satisfy it in India, that there was a case for the abolition of local self-governing institutions in Calcutta. Failing a case being proved this Bill should not be allowed to pass.

The resolution was then warmly supported successively by Mr. Harwood, who was present at all the proceedings of the Calcutta Congress in 1896, and by Mr. Schwann, who warmly supported Mr. Souttar's suggestion for the establishment of a Local Government Board in India.

Then Sir Henry Fowler rose on the Front Opposition Bench, speaking with all the added force of a recently united Liberal party, and not merely as the ex-Secretary of State for India. There can be no doubt, however, that the admirable speech which he delivered was quite as much his own personal views, as a declaration of the policy of the Bench from which he spoke. He said :—

The House had so few opportunities of expressing s opinion on Indian affairs that it was not out of place hat upon a question of this gravity it should express, se would not say a definite or a final opinion, but a trong opinion as to the aspect that should be assumed. The municipal government in Calcutta dated back to 1876, and the present measure was founded upon a measure introduced by Sir Richard Temple in that year. The Bill was reconstructed in a great many points in 1888, and what they were dealing with was the Municipality of Calcutta as it was constituted in 1888. It was now, in 1899, proposed to materially alter the municipal government in Calcutta. He thought the first question they had to ask was what had been the past history of the experiment. Had it broken down in any one of its conditions so flagrantly, so utterly, and, apparently, so hopelessly that it was absolutely necessary in so short a period of ten years to pull a thing to pieces and alter it again in a manner which would be very foreign to our own dealing with municipal government here, and which they had reason to think was very unpopular in India. As he understood the matter, the Council of Calcutta consisted of 75 members. Fifty of those members were elected, as members were elected here, by popular voting—the vote of the ratepayers. Fifteen of them were nominated by the local government, and the other ten were elected by various bodies, such as the Bengal Chamber of Commerce, the Calcutta trade associations, and the Commissioners or the Port of Calcutta. Though the nominated element was rather strong, he thought that on the whole there was a fair distribution of the elective principle. But there was an executive committee, of a Cabinet, which, as he understood, really did the work. Sir Richard Temple and the otherwise administrators. who formed the original municipality followed, in the constitution of the executive, precisely the principle adopted in respect to the Council. The executive committee, or Cabinet, consisted of 18 members. Twelve of these were elected by the 50 elected members of the municipal corporation, and the other six were elected in various proportions by the non-elected and the Government nomination. The whole question now under discussion turned upon the constitution of the second body. As he understood the new proposal, it was suggested to leave the original constitution of the 75 members as it is, but to reduce the executive committee from 18 to 12, and instead of giving the elected members power to elect two-thirds, it was proposed to allow them to elect one-third only. In Sir Richard Temple's legislation the work was unpaid, but the Bill now proposed to be introduced gave, for the first time, fees.

We were trying a great experiment in India and one which had been successfully tried—the introduction, as far as possible, of self-Government in the large municipalities. Of course, they made blunders and did stupid things. He should like to know what municipal corporation or county council in England had not done stupid and foolish things ; had not retarded sanitation ; and had not required legislative compulsion to make them do their duty, and now and then the heel of the Local Government Board to be put upon them to keep them up to the mark.

Education in municipal work was a slow process. Perhaps they talked too much and too long. Too much talk was not confined to municipal life. He was not sure that the Mother of Parliaments was free from that objection. But with the Englishman who understood the working of parliamentary and municipal life and local self-government in all its ramifications those objections would not weigh in the least against the general principle of enlisting the people of their own self-government. The process of education must be carried on in Calcutt aand Bombay, and he thought the checks—if they were to be called checks—which the local Government of Bengal introduced under the sanction of one of the wisest Lieutenant-Governors Bengal ever had—their old friend Sir Richard Temple—were sufficient for the purpose. He, himself, did not see any evidence to justify the statement that the system had broken down and that they should introduce into an experiment not ten years old the novel principle of substituting nominated officials for pupular elected bodies, and throwing to the winds an efficient popular government. With regard to the suggestion that had been made, they could sufficiently safeguard the satisfactory working of the sanitary work of that department of the Government without imperilling what was a vital principle as far as self-government in India was concerned. Now he would draw attention to the unwisdom of exciting public feeling on a question of this sort. No doubt considerable public feeling had been roused in Calcutta on the question and had been exaggerated. But exaggeration of the kind was not confined to the East. He had himself received documents in language which was not very wise with reference to the step taken, and improper motives were imputed to the Government in connexion with it. But looking at the delicate relations between this country and India, looking at the Oriental mind and the rapidity with which feelings of this sort spread and assumed dangerous proportions, it was not wise to put the Imperial Central Government of India and the Government of Bengal in conflict unless there was absolute necessity. They might have gone too far ten years ago, but it would be unwise to go back. Let it be proved that there had been public danger to the peace, good government, or health of Calcutta and he would be the last to shrink from supporting the Government of Bengal in such an emergency. In England we had educated our people to local self-Government, and there had been a marvellous change in the capacity for local self-government here and a marvellous public expenditure with wonderfully good results on the same lines. Let us encourage local self-Government in India as long as we incurred no risk. He did not know what view the noble Lord the Secretary for India would take. They could not expect him to say what he would do, because the matter was not before him judicialy. But the final decision on the Bill still rested in his hands. But what he wanted to submit to him was that it would be desirable that the Bengal Government should not send this Bill home in its present state even to him, and, unless they could make out a much stronger case, they should be willing to wait until the experiment had had a fairer trial, until the new Viceroy (of whom a great many of them had the highest opinion) had an opportunity of considering the matter. At all events, it shoud be kept in reserve until the House on a future day and in a clearer light had a better opportunity of pronouncing a sound judgment upon it.

Lord George Hamilton said that, as every one who had listened to the debate must admit, all who had spoken had done so in a tone of great moderation. There had been a desire on the part of every speaker to eliminate as far as possible all points of controversy, and all had endeavoured to put forward suggestions which they believed would be to the benefit of India generally. His task in replying was, too, all the easier because the debate had been free from those reflections on the Civil Service which had, unfortunately, too often characterized debates on India. If hon. gentlemen would only recollect that it was the duty of the Secretary for India to defend in that House those who were discharging the most difficult and onerous duties of any public servants in the world, and discharging them well, they would refrain from observations which forced the official head of the service to take notice of them and perhaps adopt a different attitude from what he otherwise would have done. The supporters of the motion assumed that they were promoting the best interests of the people of India. But never had a motion been made which struck deeper at the root of self-government in India. For many years past every British Government had endeavoured to promote local self-government in India by the creation of local Legislatures These local Legislatures had, within certain limits, freedom of action. He had himself while he had been in office added to the number of existing local Legislatures. Of all those Legislatures the most important was that of Bengal. But the hon. gentleman proposed, in the interests of local self-government, to summarily arrest the whole of the proposed legislation of Bengal to stop the investigation now being carried on by a special committee, and to institue a Commission whose business was not to take an impartial view of the questions under consideration, but whose duty was to be confined to reporting on the objections which could be urged. He appealed to any one who had any wish to promote local self-government in India, could any motion be more destructive of it ?

Mr. Harwood.—What is the composition of the Legislature of Bengal ?

Lord G. Hamilton.—It is composed, as all local Legislatures are, with the idea of representing as accurately as possible the constituent elements of the populations in which they live.

Mr. Harwood.—How much is elective?

Lord G. Hamilton asked what was the use of the hon. gentleman putting questions of that kind. Did he know what the population of India or the elective population of Calcutta was ? These local Legislatures had to go through certain preliminaries before they could introduce any Bills. They had to get the assent of the Viceroy and the Secretary of State in Council. He was in a position o some difficulty, because in a few months he would have to decide whether the Bill in the shape it emerged from committee should pass into law or not, and, therefore, in his speech he would make use of facts and arguments to traverse the statement sufficiently to show that there were two sides to this question. It must be agreed that the municipal government granted by a higher power to a local authority must be withdrawn by that higher power if the local authority misuses or neglects the functions delegated to it. At the same time, every higher authority, when there was a municipal body representative in its character, was far more tolerant towards the proceedings of that body than if it was directly under its control. In India, as in this country there had always been shown towards a municipal body into which a representative character entered considerable leniency towards its shortcomings. But there was a line beyond which such leniency was no longer possible, and that line was reached when the inaction of the municipality endangered the lives of the community under its charge. Every speaker from the other side of the House had assumed that out of sheer wantonness of spirit and from a desire to destroy or retard the representative principle in India, this Bill had been introduced, and it was assumed that the Bengal Government was so short of work that it had gone out of its way to find this task. He recalled the minds of members from the regions of imagination into which they had wandered to the conditions to be faced by the Government in India. In the first place, plague was prevalent in certain parts of India, and at any moment might descend on Madras and Calcutta, and if it once became epidemic in Calcutta it was imposible to calculate the injury and the harm that would follow, not only to Calcutta, but the whole of the north of India. The injury done in a few years in Bombay by the plague could not be appraised, not only in actual local mortality, but by the terror causing a periodical exodus of inhabitants, carrying with them the germs of disease into various portions of the Presidency. Bombay was a seaport for the greater portion of the export and import trade of the west of India, and out of this trade arose occupation for tens of millions of people. With that trade paralysed the means of subsistence of these millions would be gone. The sanitary regulations of a seaport town in India was a matter of international interest. The sanitary condition of Calcutta during the last few years had unquestionably deteriorated, and in ten years the death-rate had increased 30 per cent. In earlier days, no doubt, the work of the municipality was well done; but in recent years it was the almost universal opinion there had been a steady deterioration, both in the character of those who served on the municipality and in the work done. He did not wish unduly to press this point, and as a short and conclusive way of proving to the house the accuracy of his statement, he quoted from a report in the blue-book on the sanitary condition of Calcutta. Fortunately there had only been a few sporadic cases of plague in Calcutta ; but when the first case of the bubonic plague occurred there the Lieutenant-Governors appointed a commission to investigate the sanitary condition of the town. The commission was composed of eight gentlemen of experience, and in addition one of the most able medical officers, of exceptional sanitary experience, was lent to the corporation to discharge the functions of medical officer. In the report made by this officer in 1896 he described the state of the warst wards as being filthy beyond description, and he stated that his services for 20 years would not be more than sufficient time to bring the chaotic condition of affairs into anything like order. This was entirely endorsed by other reports of the commission. The Government of Bengal had to deal with the knowledge that the sanitary condition of Calcutta was appallingly bad, and then arose the question to what this was due. He wish to preserve a judicial temperament on this and all questions relating to the Bill, but he was bound to say evidence showed that this condition was largely due to the chaotik system of administration which prevailed in Calcutta during the last few years. A third of the corporation was composed of barristers, and for the last nine years a complaints committee had been established. It would be obvious to any one accustomed to local self-government what the result would be likely to be on the lower grade of officials in the discharge of their duties. Hon. gentlemen had quoted one or two extracts from the speeches of ex-Lieutenant-Governors in support of the theory that Calcutta was very well administered and that the sanitary conditions were satisfactory. The hon. gentleman who moved the motion, however, had not seen the significance of the extract he read. It was no compliment to the municipality of Calcutta, it was a compliment to the chairman, and if the hon. gentleman would tread the concluding part of his own extract he would see that the enumeration of benefits was stated to be a sufficient and lasting tribute to the manner in which its first chairman had discharged the duties of his responsible, difficult, and thankless task. It was well known to everybody who had lived in Calcutta of recent years that the only thing that made the municipal corporation, since it had been established, an efficient body was the extraordinary tact and ability which its first chairman had displayed. The attempt to carry on under almost impossible conditions the executive work had been too much for almost all the able men who had subsequently succeeded him. Those were the conditions which were brought before them ; they had a most deplorable sanitary condition in Calcutta, and they had, moreover, a body of gentlemen, no doubt actuated by the highest possible motives, who had, he believed, the reputation of being the most talkative local authority in the world. He did not say that that in itself was a reason why they should be disestablished but when they had got to deal with the plague at Calcutta—the most awful calamity by which the human race could be afflicted—they could not allow talk to stand before work. It was essential that the Indian Government should protect the lives of the people under their charge and should take care, so far as they possibly could, that Calcutta did not run an undue risk from ineffective administration and from thoroughly defective sanitary arrangements. It was for these reasons that the Bill was introduced which was now under the consideration of the Bengal Council. Since that Bill had been introduced there had been a change in *pe sonel*, both as regarded the official who was Viceroy of India and the official who was Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal. The hon. gentleman, the mover of the motion, had quoted with approbation the language which Sir J. Woodburn used in connexion with this very Bill only three months ago. If Sir J. Woodburn was three months ago capable of taking a fair and equitable position on what he admitted was a difficult question why did the hon. gentleman imagine that in the three months that had since elapsed he was now incapable of maintaining that attitude ? Lord Curzon had an absolutely unbased mind on this question, the sanction to introduce the Bill was given before he arrived in India, and he thought the House had the utmost guarantee that under a system of government conducted as the Indian system was this Bill would from those high in authority receive absolutly impartial and fair consideration. It was perfectly clear to anybody who had looked through the proceedings in past years connected with the Calcutta municipality that if an effective administration was in future to be set up it should not be a miniature model of the existing municipality. That was present, he believed, to the mind of Sir Alexander Mackenzie when he made the proposals which were before the Bengal Legislature. In Bombay the Executive Council consisted of 12 members, four of whom were nominated, and eight elected. The composition of the council proposed in this Bill was that there should be four members nominated by the Government, four nominated by the great trades of Calcutta, and four nominated by the electors of Calcutta. There was a great difference between the composition of the population of Bombay and that of Calcutta. In Bombay there was a diversity of race and of religion, there was a large Parsee element and a large Mahomedan element, and the native members consequently were much more disposed to take an independent view of the questions that came forward. In Bengal the natives were all much of the same race, and the class of members who were returned, so he was informed, were of much the same social standing and had much the same interests to support. One of the objects of Sir Alexander Mackenzie in wishing to have the nomination of four Government members was to include a Mahomedan to represent Mahomedan interests, which at present it was admitted on all hands were not adequately represented in Calcutta, and also to put in some one who would look after the interests of the poor Hindus of Calcutta, whose welfare at present, in the opinion of the Bengal Government, was not sufficiently safeguarded. There was no idea, therefore, of nominating members so as to select no one but Europeans ; on the contrary, the object was to give a more adequate representation to the native races and classes, who, under a limited franchise, did not receive sufficient representation upon the Calcutta municipality He agreed that they ought to try to preserve as far as they possibly could the representative element on the municipality, but the establishment of an efficient executive was of paramount importance. He had stated the views and objects which the Bengal Government had in introducing this Bill, and shown that it had been introduced in accordance with the system of local self-government which had been promoted by every Governor and every party during the past 40 years. He hoped, therefore, the House would accept his assurance that he would to the best of his judgment, impartially consider the many provisions of this Bill when it came finally before him. It was a serious matter, affecting the health and lives of those who were under the control of this local Legislature, and the primary object of this legislation was to fight against the plague.

Sir William Wedderburn agreed that nothing could be more terrible than the plague, and that every effort should be made to keep it out. He, however, contended that the Calcutta municipality had succeeded in keeping the plague out. They had absolutely solid results to show, and they had the well-considered opinions of a whole series of impartial Lieutenant-Governors and other officials, who said the work the municipality had done had been as good, under the circumstances, as it could have been. The Secretary for India could hardly be acquinted with the views of Sir Alexander Mackenzie.

Lord G. Hamilton.—This is his Bill.

Sir W. Wedderburn said he was aware of that. But Sir Alexander Mackenzie had declared that the municipality of Calcutta had done good work, and that the city was in a remarkably healthy state. For 20 years the municipality of Calcutta had been carrying on its work with the approval and high praise of all the Lieutenant-Governors of Bengal ; and now suddenly, and without examination, the whole fabric of self-government in Calcutta was to be upset. The reasons advanced by Sir Alexander Mackenzie for this great constitutional change when he sprang this Bill on the municipality were, first, that the Commissioners talked too much. He thought the House would be inclined to grant some concession to those who talked too much. The second reason was that the Executive was not strong enough. But that was what officials said of every Executive all over the world. The third was that the commissioners paid too much deference to special interests. That simply meant that they paid too much deference to the body of the people. Between the end of December and the beginning of February there had been held no less than seven large public meetings in Calcutta, at which the case of the ratepayers had been stated in a most morderate way and it was a most extraordinary thing that the House should not give these people a fair and impartial hearing. All they asked was that the matter should not be rushed through and that all sides should be heard. He earnestly hoped the noble lord would accede to the every moderate amendment of his hon. friend.

Mr. Herbert Roberts said that he thought the course of the debate did not justify him in pressing the amendment to a division, and he therefore asked leave to withdraw in the hope that the clauses of the Bill would be modified to meet the views of himself and those who had supported him.

The amendment was by leave withdrawn.

There can be no doubt about the excellent impression made upon the House of Commons by Mr. Herbert Roberts' speech and the debate which followed. Lord George Hamilton was bound to make some sort of fight for the Bill but the impression prevails that its dissussion will be dragged slowly along, then postponed for a few months and finally droped. At all events the sting will be taken out of it and if any Bill emerges from the Council it will be comparatively harmless so far as the representative character of the Municipality is concerned. It is significant of the position into which Sir Henry Fowler has drifted on Indian questions that the brilliant journalist who makes the Parliamentary summary for the *Daily News* closes what he has to say on Mr. Roberts' amendmen in these words: "After three hours' discussion in the course of which Sir Henry Fowler and Lord George Hamilton united in objection to the amendment, Mr. Roberts withdrew it." I spoke to the writer the next day about this paragraph, and, shrugging his shoulders, he replied that he did not read the reporter's notes of Sir Henry's speech, but took or granted that he had gone with Lord George Hamilton "as usual." I hope Sir Henry has now made a fresh break and will in future act more constantly with his party. His speech in support of Mr. Roberts' amendment leaves nothing to be improved upon and is just the right tone throughout for a responsible leader to have taken up. Mr. Roberts was quite right not to divide the House ; nothing would have been gained by doing so and a small division would have lessened the impression evidently made upon the Secretary of State. It would also militate against raising a debate later in the session which may possibly be necessary. Of course Lord George Hamilton commenced his speech with a sneer at the group of members led by Sir William Wedderburn, he seems quite unable now-a-days to make a speech without. His speech otherwise was mild and conciliatory and those who are sufficiently skilled in the language of Parliament can easily read between a manifest intention to make concessions and a desire to keep open a door of final escape from a manifest dilemma. It will not, however, be wise to relax the agitation against the Bill to the smallest degree. The debate is most encouraging but must not be presumed upon by the opponents to this foolish and reactionary proposal. Calcutta is under very deep obligations to Mr. Romesh C. Dutt as well as to Mr. Roberts. Both gentlemen have been untiring in their efforts to impress the India Office not merely by the debate, but by personal interviews with leaders on both sides of the House.

Sir Henry Fowler's rattling speech in support of the amendment shows what excellent debating powers he possesses, and I trust that now the opposition has been recognised we shall see him take his right and proper place as a sound Liberal in all future Indian debates.

Tow to Save Doctor Bills.

We have saved many doctor bills since we began using Chamberlain's Cough Remedy in our home. We keep a bottle open all the time and when ever any of my family or myself begin to catch cold we begin to use the Cough Remedy, and as a result we never have to send away for a doctor and incur a large doctor bill, for Chamberlain's Cough Remedy never fails to cure. It is certainly a medicine of great merit and worth.—D. S. MEARKLE, General Merchant and Farmer, Mattie, Bedford county Pa. For sale by

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Centre for Studies in Social Sciences, Calcutta

MR. TATA'S POST—UNIVERSITY SCHEME.

THE scheme for establishing an institute of scientific research for India which has been propounded with so much accompanying generosity by Mr. J. N. Tata, awakened much sympathetic interest in educational circles in this country. The recent chilly reception which Lord Curzon gave to a deputation of leading Bombay citizens who waited upon him shortly after his arrival has given much concern here. There is always an abundance of talk about the importance of developing the resources of the Indian Empire by native enterprise but these eloqueut Anglo-Indian talkers always cool off when it comes to any practical proposal. I have before me, as I write, a leading article which I cut the other day ou of the *Times of India*, commenting upon the long campaign initiated by Messrs. Richardson and Cruddas on behalf of Indian manufacturing engineers for a larger share of Government orders, which has resulted, after ten years of ceaseless, unwearied agitation in cancelling those absurd restrictions which have hitherto prevented the fair development of the iron industry and making her vast natural resources more and more accessible and available. India has cheap and abundant labour and skilled handicraftsmen, with a stable Government affording as perfect a security to life and property as any civilised nation in the world. There is no reason that I know of why under similar circumstances India should not develop into a manufacturing country like Japan whose natural resources are certainly no better than India's.

Now to return to Mr. Tata's proposals. The development of higher university education which he proposes and is prepared so generously to endow would by the highest forms of techincal education, gradually establish in India from her own sons, a body of men eminently calculated to enable native capitalists to develop manufacturing industries in India. Can it be that this fact creates an unconscious bias on the part of the governing classes in India as an element threatening the importation of British capital? I hope not. Yet it is difficult to understand otherwise the mysterious reluctance and hesitation on the part of the Government to accept Mr. Tata's offer, and adopt his scheme. Lord Curzon recently told a deputation of the Bengal native Chamber of Commerce that it would be well of the youths of Bengal made use of the local Engineering College to study mining and electricity and to qualify generally for the strenuous crafts and professions of industrial life—most excellent advice in which I heartily concur, and which I have given over and over again in your widely read columns. But Lord Curzon must realize that the higher technical and scientific educational institutions of India are much lamentably behind the times, and that Mr. Tata's proposal is exactly what is wanted to bring them up to date. It will pick up the ablest graduates of Indian Universities and carry them forward to a far higher degree of complete efficiency, thus providing India with as high a grade of finished students as can be furnished by Britain, the United States, Germany or Japan. It is precisely the class of students contemplated by Mr. Tata's scheme that has given the United States a world's supremacy in electricity, Germany in chemistry, Japan in ceramics and weaving, Britain in machinery and textiles.

If the Government of India continue to turn the cold shoulder to Mr. Tata's splendid scheme—and I hope they will be better advised Mr. Tata will, in my opinion, act wisely if he abandons it altogether, and spends his money in a wider development of the magnificent but quiet, unobtrusive work he has been carrying out for the last seven years on the British Universities. Mr. Tata is one of those noble souls who "do good by stealth, and blush to find it fame." For the last seven years he has, unknown except to quite an inner circle of his own friends, been sending to this country a succession of clever students who have distinguished themselves in our British Universities, and are now doing fine educational and scientific work in their native land. Let me venture to 'expose' Mr. Tata a little, and give you some particulars of what his students have done.

Miss Freany Cama took several medical degrees including M. B., Brussels.

Mr. A. K. Cama went to Cambridge, came out a wrangler, after taking several scholarships and passed the Indian Civil Service examination—13th in order of merit.

Mr. R. F. Bnathena entered Coopers' Hill College and passed out 8th out of 36 students.

Dr. R. Row took his degree of B. Sc. M. B., M. D., obtained the Grocers' scholarship of £250 per annum, a grant from the Royal Society, and prizes too many to name.

Mr. H. H. Wadia took his B. A. Cambridge with a 2nd-class in mathematics and has since been called to the Bar.

Mr. F. C. Pavry, now at Cooper's Hill was first out of 37 students for the second year's examinations.

Besides these and others whom Mr. Tata's generous help has sent to our British Universities and Colleges, four other students are now at work over here, with every prospect of keeping up the good record of their predecessors.

Mr. Tata is undoubtedly right in believing that the best way to further the industrial development of India is by training Indian graduates in scientific research. If the Government are foolish enough not to take up his patriotic scheme, I am sure Mr. Tata is not the man to succumb to natural disappointment. He could not do better in such an event, than send post-graduates of Indian universities over to Britain to study in our schools of mines and engineering which are the best in the world; to Germany to develop themselves in chemistry, and to the United States for electricity. Such finished scientists will be surely able to find profitable employmeut in the early future of Indian industries and will do very much a draw out the hoarded wealth of India into native enterprises.

MINERAL INDUSTRIES OF INDIA.

Although very little has yet been done by the Goverament of India to explore the great mineral wealth of the country enough has been done to justify the belief that it is very great and will spread. Gold exists in other districts than Mysore and there are undoubted evidence of vast auriferous areas in Chota Nagpur and elsewhere. Why should not Mr. Tata choose a clever young Indian graduate give him two years in the Royal School of Mines in London, a year in the gold fields of California, another in Australia and a fifth year in Mysore. He would then be fitted for scientific exploration in India and if he found a big good mine for Mr. Tata everyone would be glad to see wealth accruing to a self-denying and patriotic man. The coal fields of India have been merely scratched. Copper silver and lead ores are known to exist in a dozen areas. Mica, now one of the most important minerals in the world's industry, is plentiful in outward show, and only awaits exploration. Antimony, graphite, iron and manganese are well known Indian minerals and there is abundance of lime to flux them.

Beyond these mineral resources, there are fifty industries possible to India, if her own sons will undertake them, all of which cry out for trained scientists to discover and develop them. But on the top of native capital (or for the matter of that British capital) and native scientific skill, there must be a complete reversal of the rotten, disingenuous, prohibitive system under which alone, so far the Indian Government will allow willing prospectors to pursue their explorations of mineral wealth. If the Indian capitalist had native science at his disposal, with fair terms, fair scope, honest, workable conditions, low royalties and long leases there would be more hope for the development of all the great mineral wealth of the country, with the employment of labour which would accompany it. Lord Elgin and Lord Curzon have both quite recently made speeches on the importance of attracting British capital to India, and Lord Curzon just before leaving Britain, expressed his astonishment that huge schemes for exploiting the resources of China should be dangled before the British public while the natural riches of India remained unutilised. The *Times of India* justly remarks that when the new Viceroy learns a little more about the discouragements which official inaptitude and neglect have placed in the way of the development of indigenous industries in India, he will cease to wonder that capitalists are chary of bringing themselves into touch with an adminstration so fertile in expedients for thwarting private enterprise. The Editor then goes on to give the melancholy story of the ten years' struggle of the Engineering trade of India with the Government, and I must say it is little wonder that British capitalists fight shy of so antiquated and stupid an adminstration. I can fully endorse the indictment of the *Times of India* from my own personal experience. A few years ago I was for two years the president of the British Iron Trade Association and I had occasion to investigate the conditions under which it would be possible to develop Iron industries in India. It is little wonder that with India's enormous consumption of iron and abundant supplies of raw material, that she is steell compelled to import almost every pound of iron and steell she consumes, and that the rate of trade-interest on money is permanently 2 or 3 times as much as that prevailing in Britain.

But why all this cry about *foreign* capital? Why should India's resources not be exploited and developed by the hoarded wealth of her own sons? Compare the advantages of India as a manufacturing country with any other Asiatic nations. China has no railways. India has a great network of Railway lines.

THE Segowlie-Ruaul Railway was opened for passenger and goods traffic on 1st March.

DHRANGADHRA Railway is a short metre-gauge line lately constructed for the Dhrangadhra State in connection with the Kathiawar system of Railways. Some extensions of it in the shape of quarry sidings are contemplated.

THE young Mehtar of Chitral, while out hawking last month, had a fall from his pony which resulted in a fractured arm. He was attended to promptly by the military medical officer, and is now nearly well again.

NEWS comes from Aden that rumours in the bazar are afloat that the Somalis in the French possessions are giving much trouble, and intend to wreck what has been built of the railway. According to all accounts the row will bea big one.

COLONEL DONALD ROBERTSON, the British Resident in Mysore, with Sir K. Seshadri Iyer, Dewan of Mysore, and Staff, arrived at Madras on Saturday, *en route* to Calcutta.

HIS Honor the Lieutenant-Governor of the North-West Provinces aud Oudh will leave Allahabad for Lucknow on the morning of March 18th. On April 3rd His Honor will go from Lucknow to Benares, and will open the Grnges Gogra Doab Line on April 4th. The Lieutenant-Governor will preside at a meeting of the Legislative Council at Lucknow on April 6th, and will leave Lucknow on the evening of April 7th for Naini Tal, where he well arrive on the morning of April 8th.

A VELLORE correspondent writes to the *Hindu*:—Some days back a Police constable is said to have been improperly pushed by the neck by a sepoy under the orders of his Jamadar, and this is also said to have been the subject of a lengthy correspondence between the heads of the respective forces, each trying to justify the action of his subordinate. Subsequent to this event, *i. e*, the event of pushing a constable by the neck, a sepoy who was found drunk and disorderly, was charged by the Police before Mr. Dutt, the Joint-Magistrate, who convicted and fined the accused Rs. 2. It must be added here that at the evening bazar on Saturday a constable belonging to the Chittore Reserve Force, was very roughly handled for reasons yet not definitely stated by a number of sepoys. The next day, *i. e*, on Sunday, a petty quarrel arose between a number of sepoys in undress on the one side and a few Police constables on the other, which, it is suspected, was more or less premeditated, inasmuch as almost the entire body of the sepoys issued forth a little time after, most of them with their arms. These in a body rushed into the Police Lines where the men reside with their families, and were met by a large number of that force, their women and children running in a frantic manner to save life and honour. A large crowd of people, numbering more than a thousand, assembled on the spot, and a mad fight ensued. The mundies and the retail bazars were all closed, fearing a loot, which appeared imminent, and the residents of the town who are staying here in spite of the plague scare also apprehended a loot. One of the Police Constables is said to have received serious injuries, and has been removed to the Hospital. It took some time for the authorities to quell the disturbance, and I understand that some of the leaders who are "wanted" have made themselves scarce.

A TRAGEDY ON THE ICE.

IT was a bright, clear, frosty night, and as I sped along over the smooth ice the full moon rose before me, flooding its silver light down the arm of the Rhine up which I was travelling back to the castle, where I was a guest. At every little bend of the frozen path I could see the twinkling lights of the castle on the rock, and my thoughts flew before me to one whose sweet face was more to me than all the world beside. I could see her lustrous eyes now gazing into mine as they had early in the afternoon, when she had begged me to return before nightfall for fear I might be attacked by robbers. I had promised to do so, but had miscalculated the distance and the time; thus, now, as I flew merrily along I pictured her looking down from one of those castle windows with an anxious, troubled face waiting for my return. It was a beautiful picture, but not a true one, for Petrovna was not the woman to wait the issue of events when she thought something was wrong.

The grotesque snow panorama on the banks sped by me, and the music of my skates rang and echoed in every little wayside dell as I hurried on. Having small fear of robbers, I was unarmed except for a stick with a rapier in it which I carried in my hand.

Presently my thoughts of Petrovna were interrupted by the weird howling of a wolf in the distance. The sound banished my sweet reverie, and an unaccountable shudder went through me—a strange foreboding of catastrophe which gripped my heart and lent wings to my feet.

Scarcely a minute had passed when another cry reached my ears. Was it, too, the howl of a wolf? It sounded more human than that! Was it the cry of a woman? I increased my pace to the utmost, for it had sounded about a quarter of a mile ahead round the next bend, which now hid the moon from me.

I had nearly gained this bend when the cry was repeated. Yes, it was a woman's cry, and, what was more, a cry of distress.

In another moment I was round the bend, and there, in a broad space of the river, the moonlight fell upon two figures struggling—a man and a woman.

I gave a shout. The man turned his head. There was a pistol shot, and a moment after the flash of a knife, fo lowed by a sharp cry as the woman sank to the ground.

I was now almost upon them, when the man dashed up and away. I gave chase, thinking to kill him before he could get up speed, but he eluded me by the most peculiar and extraordinary figure I have ever seen. Nevertheless, as he darted away at right angles I made a swift thrust with my rapier at his left leg, which was thrown out for a moment within reach, and pierced the fleshy part of the calf. Then he was gone, and I saw pursuit was hopeless. As he reached the bend he gave a mocking laugh, and again executed the extraordinary figure by which he had baffled me.

Hurrying to the prostrate form upon the ice, I bent over it, and turned the face up to the moonlight. It was Petrovna! She was dying. The robber's knife had evidently done its work, for there was a crimson stain on the ice.

When I had pressed my brandy flask to her lips she revived a little and her eyes looked up into mine

"Dear!" she said plaintively, "I am dying—let me die in your arms."

I raised her up, with many tender words. She linked her arms round my neck, and whispered as her head rested upon my shoulder. "I thought something had happened to you, and I came out to find you."

For answer I could only bend my head and kiss her. It was our last embrace, for a tremor of love—and death—shook her as our lips met; then her arms fell from my neck as her spirit fled.

* * * *

Three years of sorrow passed away. The murderer of my love had disappeared, and after a fruitless search, I felt that I had been denied even the consolation of vengeance. But it came at last, and by a peculiar coincidence.

One bitter winter's day, when London carried on its business and pleasure beneath a grey, frosty pall, I took my skates and went into Regent's-park where upon the ornamented ice the people were hurrying hither and thither in a motley throng. Gaining admission into the reserved enclosure, I very soon mixed in the crowd, but in a somewhat melancholy way, for it was the first time I had skated since the tragic occurrence three years since, and the ring of the skates called the sad scene up before me vividly.

As I turned hither and thither trying to drive away these associations, I caught sight of a crowd gathered round a man who was cutting figures upon the ice. I drew near to watch, and saw at a glance that this was no ordinary skater. He had a dexterity and a finish that are seldom seen. As I watched him with admiration he suddenly struck across the open patch, and flew at a rapid pace towards a man who was standing a little further in than the rest of the crowd. Then when he was within a yard of him, he executed a peculiar movement difficult to follow and darting off at right angles just avoided a collision.

Cries of "Bravo!" went up, for it was a wonderful feat. Everyone around me ejaculated some word of astonishment, but—I clenched my teeth and said nothing, for it was the exact movement made by the robber who had murdered Petrovna. I had never seen it before nor since until now, and it occurred to me that as it was a very rare feat, the skater before me might possibly be my man.

Impelled by this idea I watched him narrowly, and when at length he retired to the bank, and sat upon one of the chairs for his skates to be removed, I briefly explained my suspicions to a policeman, whom I instructed to stand near to watch and listen while I went up to the stranger, and addressed him.

"Excuse me, sir," I said, "but that was an extraordinary feat you performed on the ice just now."

"Yes," he replied; "I flatter myself that I hold a monopoly of that, simply because no one else can do it." He spoke with a slightly foreign accent.

"Are you sure?" I asked. "I fancy I've seen it somewhere."

He looked incredulous as he replied with a smile: "I'll lay a wager of £500 that you can't show me another man who can do it."

"Then it must have been you I saw," I said, quietly. "It was three years ago on the K—near B—Castle.

The man's jaw fell, and he blanched suddenly as I went on. "I tried to overtake you, but you—"

"Me!" he ejaculated, recovering himself. "What proof have of that?"

The trick you performed on the ice just now is the same you employed to elude me on that occasion."

"Nonsense!" he cried, starting up and glaring at me, "I'm not the only man that can do that trick it's absurd——"

"Whait" I said, inturrupting him; do you know me?"

"No; I never set eyes on you before."

"Very well, that lends additional weight to what I have to say. Listen. While I was chasing you I managed to run my rapier through the calf of your left leg, and I presume that an examination will prove that fact."

"Ridiculous!" he cried again, while I caught the policeman's eye. This is too much; to accuse an innocent man of murder because he can cut a certain figure on the ice and because you think he has a little mark on the calf of his leg—oh! that's good!" and he laughed.

But his merriment was cut short.

"Murder?" I said; "who accused you of murder? I never said a word about murder."

"Not to 'him'!" said the policeman, placing his hand on the foreigner's shoulder, "but you did to me some minutes back when you pointed him out to me. Come along," he continued, addressing the now nonplussed man; "you seem to know what you are going to be charged with—we must have your case looked into."

He was self-convicted, and went quietly. Subsequent discoveries proved him to be the right man, for not only was the small mark of the rapier wound visible upon the calf of his leg, but the whole matter was investigated, and his identity was proved without the shadow of a doubt. In due course he was executed for the crime, and I felt some melancholy satisfaction in the thought, that the very trick by which he had eluded me on that memorable night had betrayed him at last into the hands of an avenging Justice.

PICTURES MADE TO GROW INTO A TREE

A VERY curious story is related in the *Religio-Philosophical Journal* of January 5th. About 45 years ago a Japanese man who lived alone in a small house near Angels, California, was found dead on the floor, his body being shockingly mutilated. The right hand (all save the thumb) and both feet had been chopped off and the left arm broken. It was supposed that certain Chinamen murdered the Japanese, first torturing him to make him disclose the hiding-place of his gold, but there was no definite proof. A mound of earth indicates the spot where the remains were buried. The story continues thus:—

A water oak had grown up through the mound and had attained the proportions of a tree six or eight inches in diameter. Last week Mr. Bacigaluppi was chopping wood on the branch [near Angels Camp] and felled this water oak and afterwards started to saw it up in length suitable for a stove. The first cut revealed a peculiar image, dyed in black in the heart of the white wood of the tree. The hand, all except the thumb, is gone and both of the feet are missing.

Those few old timers who recall the figure of the murdered man declare that the image in the tree is a good profile of him as he appeared in life. Three or four cuts were made through the tree, and each of them revealed the same strange picture. The blocks are in the possession of C. A. Bryant of Angels, and Chinese to whom they have been shown refuse to touch the wood, declaring their belief that it is possessed of an evil spirit.

THE DRAVID MURDER.

THE hearing of the case against Wasudeo Chapekar, Ranade, and Sathe for the murder of the Dravid brothers, was resumed on the 3rd instant before the Hon. Mr. Crowe, Sessions Judge of Poona.

Govind Londe, uncle to Wasudeo, repeated his evidence given before the Magistrate. They lived together. After a few days, Wasudeo wanted his dinner early, and used to go out on business and would return later with Ranade. They changed clothes, took pistols, went out, returned later, and conversed about killing Ramjee Pandu, also the Dravids. Wasudeo told him that they went to shoot Ramjee, but failed. On the 8th February they left as usual. They returned later with Sathe. All three changed clothes. Sathe had a black cap, which he changed for the witness' red one, and then left the house, armed. Sathe having a stick only, returned later. After the witness heard a report, he said he had shot the Dravids. He told the witness to keep Sathe if he returned. Wasudeo and Ranade went out again after changing their dress.

Crosss-examined: He went to the Farashkhana on the 9th. He was taken there the following day. He knew of the intention to kill the Dravids, but did not approve the act. He did nothing to prevent it, He did not give evidence to the police. He was afraid to tell, in case he would be shot. He afterwards gave evidence, because he was afraid of being hanged for complicity in the murder of the Dravids. He had not been charged with abetment. He lent the murderer's clothea. The witness denied being kept in the Farashkhana, but afterwards said he did stop there; that Sathe, Nana and himself were kept there, and that he was taken home by the Police. His house was searched. He was always kept under police surveillance. All his previous statements were false. He was kept in the Farashkhana until examined by the Magistrate. The witness knew he could be punished for giving false evidence. He only knew Sathe slightly. He came to visit Wasudeo as a friend. He saw him on the, 4th when they went out to murder some body. He was afraid.

Nilkunt Dravid, examined, said he had known Sathe for about two years. He did not speak to the witness after he gave evidence in Damodher's case. He met him on the night of the murder. Nilkunt met Sathe, and asked him if any man had passed, and received a reply in the negative.

Cross-examined: He spoke to Sathe because he thought he might have been concerned in the murder. Hu mentioned this suspicion to Mr. Brewin Ramjee Pandu told Mr. Brewin what happened. He did not tell the police that he met Sathe.

The next day Ramjee Pandoo gave evidence regarding the various articles found in Wasudeo's room. He identified the places on the plan where Ramjee was shot on the 3rd February. His clothes were burnt between the shoulders. Londe gave information about Sathe. The witness did not know who shot him. He arrested Sathe in his class in the Poona High School.

Krishnajee Kelkar, a Deputy Educational Inspector, examined, said he knew Sathe when he was head-master of the school. He was not in Poona on the night of the 8th February, but his family were in Poona. He had a son of the same age as Sathe. The letter was on visiting terms with his family.

The three accused made a statement to the Judge. Ranade and Wasudeo both admitted their guilt. Sathe denied being there. He said that hedid not know he was arrested. Londe was beaten to give evidence against him.

This closed the case for the prosecution, and Mr. Anderson addressed the jury.

Mr. Davar summed up, pointing out that his client, a school-boy, was taken from his schoolroom. He pointed out the fact that both the other accused denied that Sathe was present.

The Judge summed up. The jury returned a verdict that Wasudeo and Ranade were guilty of murder, and Sathe of abetment, but strongly recommended him to mercy on account of his youth. A unanimous verdict was passed. Sathe was sentenced to ten years' imprisonment.

A SMALL party of four sowars of the 5th Punjab Cavalry, who were going from Wana, were fired upon on Sunday by a gang of 50 Mahsuds, two sowars and three horses being shot. The troops went out and pursued the gang, shooting one man.

Mofussil News.

MALDA, FEB. 26.

THE District Magistrate, Mr. G. E. Manisty, after his long tour in the interior, returned to head-quarters on Monday last.—The only one case in the last criminal Sessions has resulted in the conviction of the accused persons (two in number) who being indicted on a charge of attempt at murder have been sentenced to 7 and 10 years' rigorous imprisonment respectively.—A special meeting of the local "Education Society" will be held at 3 P. M this afternoon. Babu Gopal Chandra Ghosh M. A. of the Controller General's office, who is a native of Malda and is now at home on leave, will deliver a speech on the "Wants of Malda."—The cold is gradually disappearing. The atmosphere is somewhat cloudy to-day.—The *rabi* crops are in the course of being harvested. Common rice now sells at 19 seers to a rupee. General health of the town is good.

GAYA, FEB. 26.

THE February Sessions is perhaps the largest, for it has occupied the whole month. The Gang case of which an account appeared in your paper the other day, having been closed, the Judge has taken up 2 counter murder cases, very sensational in their nature, inasmuch as the cases have cropped up between two big rival Zamindars of Hisua, Babu Drigopal Lall and Khandya Lall. The cases are most unfortunate considering thatthe two gentlemen are brothers ranged one against the other. On one side appears thejunior Government Pleader instructed by Babu Ram Prasad and Mr. Howard, and the other side is represented by Messrs. Sutherland and Ali Imam from Patna. Both sides are squandering money like water and the matter is greatly to be pitied.—The summer season has set in in right earnest. Winter cloths have become unbearable in the daytime.

SERAMPORE, FEB. 28.

THE hot weather has made its appearance a little earlier than usual, much to our discomfort as *Punkhas* cannot be brought into requisition in Courts and public offices until the 15th March.—Quite a commotion, but no panic, was caused here last week, owing to a fatal case of suspected plague having occurred in Banerjipara, Serampore. The Civil Medical Officer and the Municipality under the guidance of the Magistrate have been taking every precaution against the spread of this fell disease. The deceased was attacked with plague in Calcutta and was brought to his father-in-law's house where he expired on the seventh day after the attack. Another case of plague is reported from Tarkeswar where Dr. Hay Jagannadham had to run up last night.—Our popular District Magistrate, Mr. French, is going away on transfer to Hazaribag. It is extremely unfortunate that Mr. French who has been taking special interest in the cleanliness of his district, should be transferred at a time when plague is knocking at our doors. Mr. Inglis succeeds him; the permanent incumbent, Mr. Allen, has, it is said, lost his lien on the appointment.—A correspondent from Serampur gave you wrong information the other day about the election of office-bearers of the local Public Library. The election came off over a year ago and not recently. There was, however, a bye-election.—Preparations are being made for the forthcoming Agricultural and Industrial Exhibition at Serampore. It will probably commence on Sunday next. Either Babu Hem Chandra Gossain, the well-known Zemindar, or Mr. Craven, the Sub-divisional Officer, will be requested to preside.—Another Munsiff of the station, Dr. V. Rai, has suddenly been transferred to Jessore, Babu Nandalal Kundu coming in his place. One can hardly come across an abler officer in the Subordinate Judicial service than Dr. Rai.

SOOREE, FEB. 27.

THE lawless conduct of the so-called Kabuli pedlars, as most graphically described in your issue of the 16th instant, cannot fail to draw the attention of the rulers. A number of these Kabulis, about 8 or 10 in number, have been sent up by the Sub-divisional Magistrate of Rampurhat to take their trial in the Sessions Court here on a charge of dacoity which took place in the house of one Uday Biswas, a native Christian money-lender of Narainpur. The stolen property is alleged to have amounted to seventeen or eighteen thousand rupees. Besides some bonds and other valuable securities were destroyed. A large gang was seen the other day hovering about the court buildings when the case was taken up. They were not altogether free from making a show of some degree of force and violence even to the muktiars and pleaders engaged in their case when the latter demanded money for their services. Owing to the illness and inability of one of the Kabuli accused to stand his trial the case was postponed to some future day.—The riot case in which the party of Raja Peary Mohun Mukherjee of Utterpara as complainant and that of Munjalata Dasi on the other side are concerned, and which is under preliminary enquiry before Deputy Magistrate, Moulavi Abdu Sovan, has created a great sensation here. Upon application to the District Magistrate for a transfer of the case on several serious grounds as well as for calling for other persons as accused whom the police have groundlessly let off, the said officer has ordered the immediate arrest to be made of a number of persons of position and respectability who, in his opinion appear to have had some share in the commission of the said crime:—Mr. B. C. Seal, District Judge, gave a theatrical entertainment and invited a number of gentlemen including all the pleaders. More than three thousand people assembled to see the performance. Everybody was most highly satisfied with the courtesy and excellent arrangement of Mr. Seal.

What to Do Until tor Arrives.

It is very hard to stand idly b and see our d ones suffer while awaiting the arrival of the docto An Albany (N. Y.) dairyman called at a drug sto there for a doctor to come and see his child, th very sick with croup. Not finding the doctor he left word for him to come at once on his retur He also bought a bottle of Chamberlain's Cou Remedy, which he hoped would give some reli until the doctor should arrive. In a few hours returned, saying the doctor need not come, as t child was much better. The druggist, Mr. Ot Schola, says the family has since recommend Chamberlain's Cough Remedy to their neighbo and friends until he has a constant demand for from that part of the country. For sale by

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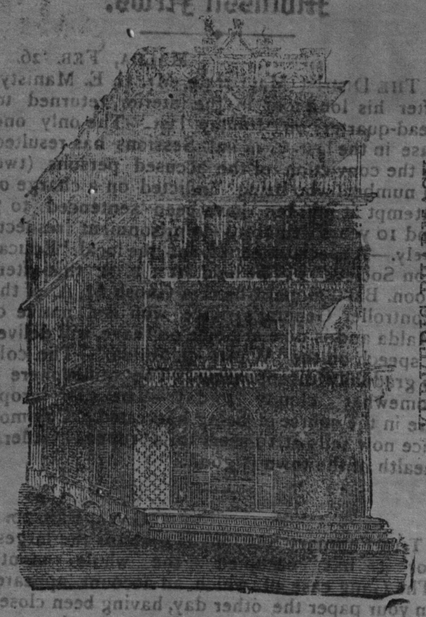

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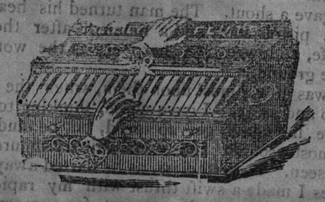

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